Star Wars returns after 20 years, Page 3

Quigly, down under, Page 18

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NIAGARA NEWS

VOLUME 27, NO. 11 —FREE— FEB. 14, 1997

SAC Elections March 4 & 6 from 11:00 a.m to 2:00 p.m

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Sharing a quiet moment

Letisia Bell and Jason Long share quiet moments at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory. Models courtest of SECRETS, Wendy Milinkovich School of Modelling, St. Catharines. See additional photos IN THE SPOTLIGHT on pages 12 and 13.

Photo by Richard Mancuso and Keri-Lynn Smith

Tuition increases

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Ontario colleges and universities have the green flag to increase tuition by 10 per cent this fall following an announcement by Ontario Education Minister John Snobelen Feb. 5.

Snobelen said this will allow greater flexibility in the post-secondary school system. Student leaders are upset with the move saying it will increase inaccessibility to education and student indebtedness.

"What it's doing is adding another brick to the wall of inaccessibility that has been created over the past years of tuition increases," said Lesley McMillan, Brock University Student Union president.

Tuition fees were up 20 per cent in universities last fall and 10 per cent the previous year.

Community college fees rose 15 per cent last September, and 11 per cent each of the two previous years.

McMillan said many students are responding to tuition increases by becoming part-time students.

"It's becoming a lot harder for students to survive. They're taking away the university as a public institution and putting it back into the hands of the elite."

Snobelen is also increasing funds in the $2.9-billion Ontario Student Assistance Plan by $150 million, increasing the repayable ceiling on student loans by $1,000 to a maximum of $7,000 per school year, and creating a $15-$20 million scholarship fund to be awarded to the top two per cent of students with the highest marks.

"Niagara College might be nice and try to help us absorb the cost" of increasing tuition, said Jason Chase, the college's Student Administration Council (SAC) president.

"It becomes a matter of access. I know as a student, I'd be scared, and perhaps shy away from post-secondary education in the face of the increases," said Chase.

If Niagara College's administration decides to increase tuition to the maximum amount next year, tuition will have increased 26.5 per cent in total over the past two years, said Don Woodruff, SAC executive vice-president.

(Continued on page 3)

Awarding Weller the HRPAO

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

A third-year Business Administration program student is receiving an award in her field of study.

Laurie Weller, 39, of Niagara Falls, has won the Tosi-Human Resources Profession Association of Ontario (HRPAO) scholarship.

Tosi Placement Services Inc. and HRPAO fund the $2,000 scholarship Weller will receive Feb. 19 during the association's annual conference in Toronto.

To be eligible to win the scholarship, students had to apply, outlining their qualifications in the five criteria areas: academics, financial need, volunteer work, community service and potential for success in the field.

Weller chose to major in human resources management in her final year of the program because it's "dynamite to work in.

"People make the company," Weller says. She learned this from her "prior business background" working as an executive secretary and in the personnel department.

'Although I'm getting this award, I'm not totally responsible. Others helped out.'

Laurie Weller

In 1979 Weller graduated from Niagara College with a secretarial arts diploma.

Graduating in April will not be a problem if she can maintain her current A average.

Weller says she feels her grades played a key part in her winning this award.

In addition, she says she is not solely responsible for this achievement. "Although I'm getting this award, I'm not totally responsible. Others helped out."

In particular, she mentions her parents, who helped by babysitting her two children. Weller is a single mother of Katelyn, 9, and Calvin, 6.

Returning to school has allowed Weller to learn the "hows, whys, and wherefores" of what she calls "the guts of the course.

"It (the program) is a stepping-stone to practical work," she says.

After graduation Weller is "definitely" going to pursue a career in the human resources management field. She says she enjoys training and labor development, but also mentions labor relations.

However, Weller says lately she is "pretty tired." She says, "I'll have to dig deep for the last 10 weeks (of classes)."

Woodruff acclaimed

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Without so much as a hoot or holler, or a single streamer being thrown, the new Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) president for the 1997-98 year was quietly acclaimed Feb. 6.

SAC's second-highest official, Don Woodruff, 21, a first-year Business Administration and Accounting program student, and SAC executive vice-president, will begin as president in May.

In order to become SAC president, a potential candidate must be nominated by 25 students and have a weighted academic average of at least 65 per cent. The nomination form had to be submitted to the returning officer by Feb. 6.

Woodruff was acclaimed to the position. The other nominated candidate was eliminated from the race because of undisclosed reasons.

Woodruff graduated last year from the Retail Management program, and started his career with student council last February when he was elected as a student representative. He was elected in May as SAC executive vice-president.

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Career provides many memorable occasions

By KATHERINE NADEAU
Staff Writer

Mal Woodhouse says he loves his job, but his real passion is politics.

Woodhouse has been the director of Niagara College's plant and property for two years. He said plans to move many of the college's programs to the new Niagara-on-the-Lake campus by September 1998 are keeping him busy and there are a "host of things going on."

Arrangements are being made to sell the St. Catharines Wellandvale campus. Modifications and renovations are being made at the Welland campus to accommodate programs moving from leased sites.

Woodhouse is also involved in a new project to beautify the various Niagara College campuses.

"The Green Legacy project is a proposal to expand and enhance the grounds for future generations of students and staff," he said. "Trees, for example, take many years to attain their full height so this generation may not enjoy the full benefits."

Woodhouse is a graduate of the Labor Management Relations program at Niagara College. He said he left school at 16 to find work to help support his family. After marrying, and working for several years at Hayes-Dana in Thorold, he was able to take night courses and graduated from the college in 1987.

Woodhouse was elected mayor of Thorold in 1994. He has served on the Thorold City Council, Regional Niagara Council and the Police Commission for several years. He also did volunteer work with the Thorold fire department and ambulance service.

In spite of his many responsibilities, he said he is able to balance his job at the college, his political career and his family life. He coaches his 11-year-old son Nathan's baseball team in the summer. He also coached his daughters' teams when they played ball.

His political career has provided some memorable occasions.

In the spring of 1981 he was one of 300 guests invited to Ottawa as part of the special events planned for the repatriation of the Constitution. At the request of Queen Elizabeth II, outstanding young people were chosen from across Canada to attend a dinner and reception in honor of the occasion. Woodhouse was nominated by Gib Parent, current Speaker of the House, based on his volunteer work and community contributions.

With his rented tuxedo accidentally left behind in Thorold, he was the only guest wearing a black business suit. Woodhouse decided to keep his menu as a souvenir, he says, and left the dinner to take it to his hotel room.

"I got off the elevator and there stood the Queen, Prince Phillip, (Pierre) Trudeau (then the prime minister) and two mounties." He followed them to the reception hall without realizing the other guests were to follow later.

"I shook Trudeau's hand and congratulated him for bringing home the Constitution," said Woodhouse. A conversation with the Queen followed and Woodhouse said he was pleased she had heard of Thorold and knew its historical background. He complimented her on her jewelry as they waited for the other guests to arrive. No one questioned who he was or why he was there. He credits the black business suit.

"They must have mistaken me for security," said Woodhouse.

When he was recognized by a journalist, his accidental private audience made the front page of the Hamilton Spectator.

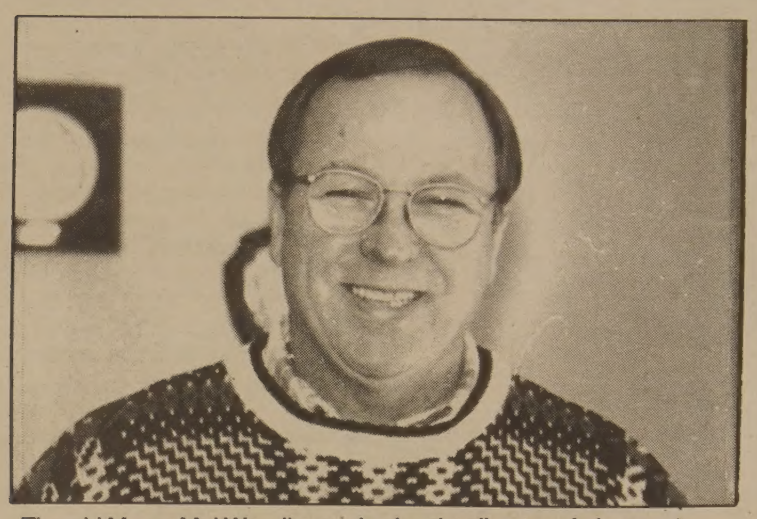
Woodhouse said much of the dinner conversation in his home is political.

His daughters Terri-Lynn, 23, and Krista, 21, travelled to Montreal during the referendum. In his office he has photographs of them with their faces painted red and white, a Canadian flag unfurled behind them.

"I was very proud of them," said Woodhouse. "They felt compelled to go and carry our colors for our country."

Terri-Lynn studied political science. Krista is a third-year student in the same program at St. Catharines' Brock University.

"My passion for Canada and my love for this country has carried over to my children."



Thorold Mayor Mal Woodhouse is also the director of plant and property at Niagara College.

Photo by Katherine Nadeau

Birthday greetings from Mal Woodhouse's staff in honor of his 50th birthday on Feb. 5.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

New board member has environmental background

This is the sixth in a series of articles featuring members of Niagara College Board of Governors

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

The environment isn't the only thing Jon Ogryzlo has on his plate.

Ogryzlo, Elected Administrative Representative on the Niagara College Board of Governors, was elected by the Administrative Staff in March 1996 for the position.

"I have two hats to wear at the board," says Ogryzlo. The first "hat" Ogryzlo says he wears is as administration. "I can bring forward points of view of administration and how the board views the management" of the college.

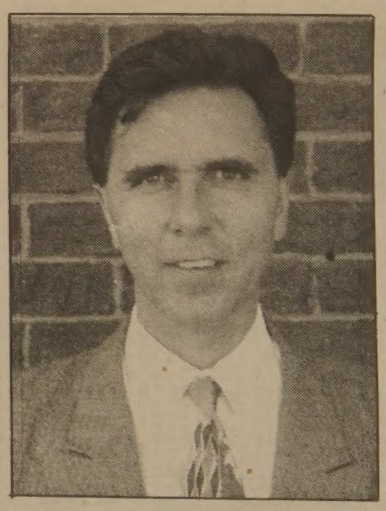
Being a board member is the second "hat" Ogryzlo says he wears. "We try to keep in touch with the community and with the campus of the future."

Ogryzlo is the chair of the Priority and Professional Development Committee, providing strategic planning for the board. "We're focused on making sure the board is well versed on the board dealings."

Ogryzlo came to the college as a training consultant for employers in business and industry. "I've worked with Niagara College since 1980. I think it is one of the best resources the community has."

Ogryzlo has also been involved in the development of the Centre for Environmental Training and was general manager of the centre in 1991.

"I've got a good insight on the college, and my background gives me insight of various aspects of the college."



JON OGRYZLO

Ogryzlo is director of the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness division. This position includes the Centre for Environmental Training and the Horticulture Centre in St. Catharines.

The continual involvement with the college "reflects my whole commitment to Niagara."

Ogryzlo says he developed his interest in the environment in the late 1980s. The college "saw the opportunity for a new program and went from there." Environment-related programs started in 1991 and now there are over 225 full-time students, about half of which are in post-graduate studies, says Ogryzlo. "Internationally, the environment is a broad career focus" for students, says Ogryzlo.

Ogryzlo also serves on a number of committees in the community, such as the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute and the Canadian Council for Human Resources for the Environment.

Born in Beamsville, the 44-year-old McMaster University, Hamilton graduate lives with his family in Queenston.

Asked why he enjoys being on the Niagara College Board of Governors, Ogryzlo simply said, "I enjoy working with a team of people of such high calibre. They want to see the college succeed and they're building benchmarks to make sure the board is successful."

Participation emphasized in Special Olympic Games

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

"Let me win. But, if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."
— motto of Special Olympics

Toronto and Collingwood hosted Canada's first World Special Olympic Games last week.

The games attracted more than 2,000 athletes from 80 countries. The athletes competed in speed skating, figure skating, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, snowshoeing and floor hockey.

The Special Olympic Games and Special Olympic local programs were created to improve the quality of life of people with mental disabilities through athletics.

The idea for the games grew out of research done by St. Catharines native, Frank Hayden.

In the early 1960s, it was thought people with mental disabilities couldn't participate in sports because they were weak, slow, overweight and lacked endurance. As a research associate at the University of Toronto, Hayden proved this false. While working on a study of mentally disabled children's motor development, Hayden discovered their poor fitness levels were simply because of lack of participation in sports. Those children who participated, however, also performed better at work.

Hayden soon began developing children's fitness programs and promoting athletic events for people with mental disabilities. In 1967, he began working with the American-based Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation. This organization, run by Eunice Kennedy, is dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental disabilities. The Kennedy Foundation then founded the Special Olympics.

The first Special Olympic Games were held in 1968 at Chicago's Soldier Field. About 1,000 athletes from Canada and the United States competed in track and field, floor hockey and aquatics. The first winter Special Olympics were held in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Five hundred athletes participated in skiing and skating events.

In 1970, France became the third country to join the Special Olympics program. In 1990, the Soviet Union joined the roster.

The athletes compete in divisions based on age, gender and ability. Participation is emphasized over competition.

Special Olympic World Games are held every two years, alternating between winter and summer games. They are open to people with a mental disability who are over eight years old. The Special Olympics have about 145 countries and more than one million athletes participating in local and international programs. In Canada, 20,000 athletes participate in year-round local Special Olympic sports programs.

The 1995 Summer Special Olympic Games, held in New Haven, Conn., had 7,000 athletes from 143 countries compete. The 1995 games included, for the first time, a full marathon, with some of the athletes finishing the 26-mile race in about three hours.

THE STORY CONTINUES

Getting a break from taxes at the college

By SHELLEY PARKES
Staff Writer

Need a break from doing your taxes? Get someone else to do it for you — free of charge.

For the second year, Revenue Canada is providing free income tax processing at Niagara College's Welland campus.

A one-day Community Volunteer EFILE Program training session will be offered to volunteering students of the accounting program.

They will be able to complete most simple returns involving tuition, a part-time job and rent receipts. However, some returns may be too complicated and may be turned away. Volunteers will also be able to offer assistance and answer questions.

Trained students can use the hours towards their program co-op credit. Last year they received certificates.

"Last year it worked really well," said Monique Morin, of Employment Services at the college. "We had 264 returns filed last year."

Niagara is the only college to offer the free processing service.

The office will be located in the Welland campus Student Centre's Quiet Zone. This was chosen "because it is central, quiet and not smoky," said Morin.

Students can drop off relevant receipts and documentation between March 3 to 27, excluding the Break Week March 10 to 14. Hours will vary throughout the weekdays. Flyers will be posted when times are finalized.

Receipts can be picked up two days later. About two weeks later, payments or a statement of payment owing will be received.

Students from all campuses will be able to benefit from the service. There will be boxes at the main offices of other campuses so students can drop in receipts. Daily pick-ups are planned. Returned forms may take an extra day of processing.

The college's Information Services department is looking into providing a modem to E-mail information to Revenue Canada to reduce the time in getting refunds. Now the information is put on a disk and taken to Revenue Canada daily.

New SAC president for May

(Continued from page 1)

He says his experience as executive vice-president will make him a good president in the coming year.

"When you first get started (with student council) you have a lot of good ideas, but you'll find that in your position, you can't go through with them. Some people get a swelled head, and their contribution isn't presented in a positive way, but in a retroactive way.

"Being the executive vice-president, I know what it's like being on council."

He says he has "lots of plans" for next year, including the formation of the long-planned athletic committee and additional school trips. He also intends to cut back the amount of time SAC members spend in and around the student council office during the summer months.

First-year General Arts and Science program student Tiffany Fox, 21, elected in January as a student representative, was acclaimed to the position of vice-president external.

There will likely be a by-election in September to fill the vice-president athletics position, says Donna Kerrigan, college English professor and SAC elections returning officer.

Three student hopefuls, Roxanne Reid, 22, an Education Resources and Special Needs program student, Anoop Chugh, 22, a Mechanical Engineering program student, and an unnamed student who will be approved as a candidate pending verification, are vying for the post of vice-president internal.

Election dates are Monday, March 3 at the Mack Nursing Education Centre from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, March 4 and 6, at all other campuses, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

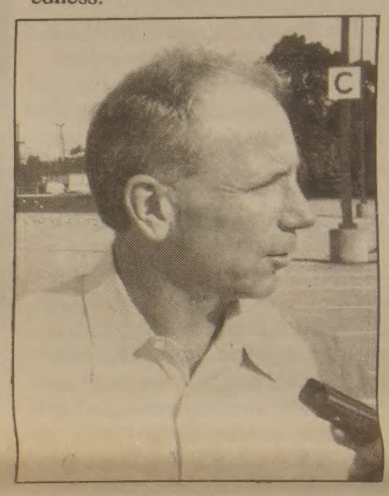
Tuition increase imminent

No increases in tuition without an increase in the quality of education

(Continued from page 1)

"I've stated that we would not support any increases in tuition without an increase in the quality of education," said Woodruff.

David Scott, senior adviser to government and community relations with the Council of Ontario Universities, said the move by the ministry will lead to "an increase in student indebtedness."



JOHN SNOBELEN

Tuition at most universities has increased 50 per cent over the past five years. The average loan debt for graduating university students is between $14,000 and $16,000, an increase of up to 75 per cent since 1990.

'I know the colleges have also been hit very hard' -Scott

Ontario is "10th out of 10" in terms of education spending in relation to the rest of the provinces, Scott said.

"A lot of universities have incorporated operating budgets, and I know the colleges have also been hit very hard."

However, he said this latest announcement is "clearly a shift of responsibility to students."

Dance for funds

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Students are invited to help raise funds by having a good time.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, a fund-raising dance has the potential to raise thousands of dollars for the children of recently killed Katie Jane Brown, a Niagara College student.

Brown, 21, a second-year Social Service Worker program student, died in a car accident on Jan. 24.

"If all the tickets sell, we (the fund-raising committee) will raise $10,000," says Sara Wilcox, from the fund-raising committee for Dylan and Mya Brown, both under the age of four.

Wilcox is one of six second-year Social Service Worker program students on the committee established to generate funds for Brown's children.

"Anyone at all" can buy a ticket for $5, which can be purchased in H26 at the Welland campus or at the doors of the Temple Club Ltd., 268 Main St., E. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

Audio Werks will be on hand to keep the music flowing and a buffet is included in the ticket price to keep energy levels high.

Funds will also be raised by raffles and draws throughout the night. The prizes have been donated by local businesses. Among the prizes are a free night's stay in a suite at the Best Western Hotel, two $15 gift certificates for M.T. Bellies Restaurant in Welland.

All proceeds from the dance go into a trust fund, which the children will be able to access "when they are older."

Wilcox says this is the "first of many" fund-raising events. She says the committee plans to have a bake sale and raffle.

When will Spring be here?

Only 35 days until the snow is gone and the flowers will begin bloom.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

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Long ribbon tassles dance through air

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Soft, soothing female voices reach out and pull patrons into the Oh Canada Eh?! showroom.

From a CD, the voices sing, "Wi-na-de-ya-ho, Wi-na-de-ya-ho ...." The *Cherokee Morning Song* welcomes everyone to the dawn of a new experience — the Kanata! Native Indian Show.

Kanata! is a group of 22 native dancers who dance and travel together. Te Rangi Huata, the group's manager, changes performers for the weekend performances at Pyramid Place, 5400 Robinson St., Niagara Falls, Ont.

On Feb. 2, Kanata! was well-represented by Todd Bloton, 19, of Wikwemikong, Manitoulin Island; Edwin Elvis Calf, 24, Sika Nation, of Calgary; Kowassenowi David, 21; Allan Jamieson, 21, Cayuga Nation, of Fort Erie; Brandon Oakes, 24, Mohawk, Akwesasine, Ont; Tara Skidders, 19, of Akwesasine, and Tammy Terance, 19.

The combination of the showroom's bucolic decor and the life-sized cardboard cutouts of native dancers in full regalia reminds Canadians of the country's rich cultural heritage.

"Celebrating together" reads a hand-drawn poster illustrating a teepee, medicine wheel and eagle's head.

A polished wooden dance floor reflects the overhead theatre lights which seem to shimmer in anticipation. Stairs rise to the curtainless, narrow stage. A painted scene of a log cabin, lake, evergreen trees and mountains enhance the rustic feeling.

The room, which seats about 45 people, provides a personal atmosphere that complements the show.

Excitement levels rise as Huata announces the show will begin in three minutes. A flute melody, accompanied by the yips and howls of wolves reflects the audience's zeal.

In a white, blue and black grass dance outfit, Jamieson begins the show and is joined on the dance floor by Oakes and Calf. Flanked by his fellow dancers, Jamieson turns in the four directions, fluidly extending arms at each stop. The mood is serious.

It lightens when Oakes takes the stage to greet the audience in Mohawk. "Sago," he invites everyone to reply.

Then, with Oakes' guidance, the audience uses native sign language to say, "I feel good."

As they stepped, bounced and flowed to taped pow wow music the dancers keep the audience feeling good by captivating and inspiring its members. Narration and brief explanations by Huata, or one of the dancers, were a notable addition, enhancing the audience's understanding of the dance and its beauty.

The dancers dazzled in their blue, white, green, black, purple and burgundy regalia decorated with sparkling triangles, flowers, or feathers. Some of the outfits could be heard before they were seen.

A faint-chinkling sound preceeded the men wearing bells made from deer hooves sewn onto a leather strap worn around the ankles. A louder jingling sound came from David when she was wearing a jingle dress. The hundreds of silver cones sewn on her purple print dress bounce and jingle during the fast-tempo dance.

David's, Skidders' and Terance's shawls of vibrant blue, green and white shone as the women imitated "a butterfly flittering from flower to flower" for the fancy shawl dance. Long ribbon tassles danced through the air from the end of the shawls. The women's feet tapped the floor as they twirled and swung their shawl-covered arms.

Some of the garments were decorated with designs of meticulously sewn-on seed beads, so-named for their size. Fluffy and straight feathers accent braided hair.

The dancers' expressions changed as they danced, sometimes serious in concentration and sometimes smiling.

It took a fair amount of concentration for Skidders and Terance, followed by Jamieson to showcase their talents performing the hoop dance. They contorted, twisted and bent through three leather-wrapped hoops, roughly an arm's length in diameter, arranging the hoops in different positions around their bodies.

The mood, as well as the dancers' expressions, was more playful when Calf and Oakes dazzled the audience's ears by each trying to out play the other on hand-held drums.

Smiles graced everyone's face at the end of the two-hour show when the spent, sweating dancers spread out through the audience shaking their hands.

Brandon Oakes (left), Kowassenowi David, Allan Jamieson and Tammy Terance use Native sign language to accompany the duet version of the song I will always love you.
Photo by Melissa Labbe

Kowassenowi David jingles as she dances the jingle dress dance - a dance of healing for body, mind and spirit.
Photo by Melissa Labbe

NIAGARA COLLEGE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1997 ELECTION FOR INTERNAL STUDENT GOVERNOR

MARCH 31, APRIL 1 AND 2, 1997

This year, Niagara College must elect one Student to the Board of Governors for the term SEPTEMBER 1, 1997 to AUGUST 31, 1998.

Those eligible to run are:

- FULL- AND PART-TIME STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A CERTIFICATE OR DIPLOMA PROGRAM AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1997
- ADULT TRAINING STUDENTS ATTENDING THE COLLEGE AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1997

Nominations will be received from February 18 to March 3, 1997, inclusive. Nomination forms together with information about the number of meetings and the role and responsibilities of Governors will be available from the Board Secretary, H-4, and at all balloting stations shown below. Each nomination requires two seconders from the nominee's constituent group.

Campaigning will take place from March 17 to 30, 1997, inclusive. Balloting will take place on March 31, April 1 and 2, 1997 between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm with votes counted on April 3. Continuing Education students registered in a program leading to a Diploma or Certificate will be able to vote between the hours of 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm in the Continuing Education Office in Hennepin Hall (H-21) on the Welland Campus or the Second Floor Office at the St. Catharines Campus. Ballot packages and ballot boxes will be available at the following locations:

- WELLAND CAMPUS
  - SE-104, OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY AND LEARNER SERVICES
  - H-21, CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFICE
- HORTICULTURAL CENTRE, ST. CATHARINES
- MAID OF THE MIST CENTRE, NIAGARA FALLS
- MACK NURSING EDUCATION CENTRE, ST. CATHARINES
- ST. CATHARINES CAMPUS - MAIN OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR

Voters' lists will be available for checking from March 18 to 24, 1997, inclusive, at all above locations. In order to vote, your name must be on the Voters' list. The last day for revision to the Voters' list is March 24.

Strict confidentiality will be maintained in the balloting using two ballot envelopes, one inside the other. On the specified day, the ballot boxes will be opened in the presence of the Returning Officer and the return envelopes stating the name, constituent group and signature will be matched against and recorded on the appropriate Voter listing to ensure one vote per elector. The outer return envelope will then be separated from the ballot envelope to ensure the secrecy of the ballot, and the ballot envelope will be returned to the ballot box pending the count of the votes. After all return envelopes have been checked against the Voters' lists and any disputes with respect to voter eligibility have been resolved, the ballot boxes will be reopened and the count commenced. The Returning Officer will rule on the eligibility of any ballot disputed due to improper marking.

DAN PATTERSON, PRESIDENT

Tuition increases will have impact on students

Tuition increase inevitable

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Niagara College students could see a 20 per cent increase in tuition.

The provincial government recently gave post-secondary institutions permission to raise tuition fees by 10 per cent, and as much as 20 per cent for certain programs.

The tuition fee announcement by John Snobelen, Ontario's education minister, could mean students will go deeper into debt to finance their education.

"Certainly, tuition increases are never good news for students on a limited budget," said Mike Collins, a Niagara College teacher and member of the Liberal party.

Currently, the maximum tuition fee for a full-time college student is $1,275. The government's announcement indicates the tuition increase would be at the discretion of the institution. There are 25 colleges and 17 universities in Ontario.

"The quality of education has not improved. How can colleges and universities justify an increase in tuition?" said Student Administrative Council President Jason Chase.

To help with education expenses, many cash-strapped students look to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). In 1995-96, about 56 per cent of full-time college students received OSAP, which provides subsidized loans and a loan forgiveness program.

Although institutions can raise tuition by as much as 20 per cent, 30 per cent of the dollars collected must be set aside for student-aid support, thus reducing the funds available for the college or university operating budget.

Still, according to Elizabeth Spielbergs, an information officer for the provincial Ministry of Education, school budgets could see another $104 million in revenue.

Spielbergs said the government "is trying to strike a happy medium.

"We want the education system to be fair for students and colleges. The decision of a tuition increase is left to the institution so they can do what is necessary to provide quality education."

While students put more money into college or university coffers, their debt loads continue to rise. A 37 per cent increase in student assistance was promised by the minister to offset the cost of tuition. That would see the $2.9-billion program increase by $150 million.

A post-secondary education advisory committee's 87-page document estimates, under the current student assistance program, it costs the government between 25 and 30 cents for every dollar in tuition fees. This is a result of provisions for interest coverage during a student's period of study, loan forgiveness, and loan defaults.

SAC vice-president Don Woodruff said the Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association is trying to incorporate an income-contingent loan-repayment plan into the province's student loan system to decrease the number of defaults.

"There will be less defaults with this system because students will have an easier time paying back their loans," he said.

The income-contingent loan-repayment plan would tie a student's repayment to his or her annual income.

Pressure on the government continues to mount as it looks for ways to cover its share of the loan program. Because of the high default numbers, the province has suggested alternative measures to trim losses.

Effective Aug. 1, graduates will be repaying student loans up to $7,000 a year, compared with $6,000 previously.

The Tories announced their intention to phase in the income-contingent loan-repayment program.

"The plan is very important for the government's overall vision. We want education to be accessible for all qualified people," said Spielbergs.

The government has also implemented a $15- to $20-million scholarship fund so the top two per cent of college and university students will receive free tuition.

"These changes have been coming so quickly that it may take a year or two to figure out whether students are better or worse off," said Collins.

African refugees share experiences at Brock

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Fleeing one's home with nothing but one's life. Difficulty obtaining visas and education. Shot in the back and left for dead.

Three dissimilar experiences. One similarity. All the speakers are refugees.

A presentation by three Brock University students, who are also African refugees, was attended by a delegation of Niagara College International Education students and staff last week.

The panel was assembled as part of International Development week.

On Feb. 4, Susan Vandenboom, Sean Coote and Juan Desivo of the International Education department brought some English as a Second Language (ESL) students to hear the presentation.

Innocence Kabenga, one of the refugees, tied refugeeism to international development. He said, "refugees have an impact on the environment and economics" of the areas they flee and seek refuge in.

The first speaker told of his life after running from Sudan to Uganda for political reasons. Moses Moini said simply, "A refugee is someone forced from their country of origin.

"You might not know what is going to happen in the next 20 or 30 minutes," so you run because you have a stronger sense of security on the road than at home where the soldiers can find you.

Moini said the "foundation of the disturbances was usually human greed," and that in most cases, if you chose to run, you went with "virtually nothing."

James Pewee then gave a vivid description of his specific circumstance, telling the history of Liberia's civil war leading up to the night in December 1994 when soldiers entered his village and massacred everyone.

He and his father were the only ones to survive. When the UN peacekeeping troops appeared the next day they found Pewee, shot in the back and left for dead. That night began his journey to Canada. He is now studying at Brock University.

Next, Kabenga described some of the specific hardships that come with refugee status in Africa. He said there is great difficulty getting an education, since "refugees need to maintain higher grades to continue than nationals," and getting a visa is especially hard when you have no fixed home.

He "waited nine months to get a visa to Tanzania from Burundi," where he had lived since he left Rwanda at 10 years of age, said Kabenga.

He also said he has never voted despite the fact he is "approaching two times 18 years of age."

During the subsequent question period, there were conflicting ideas on solutions to the problems causing refugee situations. The discussion centred on the separation of cultures and factions within political borders and the role of internal African influences versus those originating internationally.

All three agreed, however, when Moini said the reception in a new African country for refugees is "normally quite hostile. It takes hard work to fit in as a foreigner with no property."

They did praise Canadian practices however. Pewee smiled as he told of being given a Canadian flag, six months of social assistance and free medical care when he arrived in Canada. The open-arms welcome was compared to stories of African states turning back sinking ships full of people with no food, seeking safety.

Kabenga said the reason for the difference is "Canada has respect for people as human beings."

Marie-Andree Bimet, 17, is in her second term of Niagara's ESL program.

Bimet, from Amos, Que., said it was an "interesting" presentation though the refugees' accents and the speed with which everyone was talking made it difficult to understand.

Jeomseon Choi, a 26-year-old ESL student from Seoul, Korea, said she agreed with Bimet about the speed of the discourse — she has been in Canada since Dec. 26.

Choi said, whereas she can always return to her country, the refugees can't.

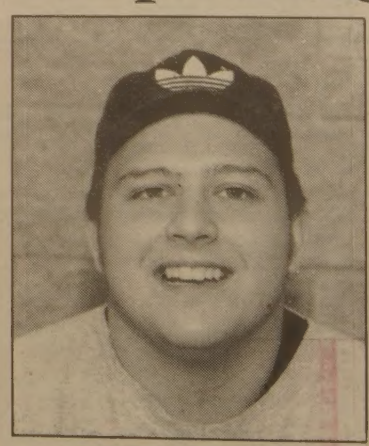
"If I were them, what can I do? If Canadians can help, help them."

"I like to learn about different cultures," said Bimet, adding she had never heard about the African atrocities that lead to refugeeism in her home town.

How safe do you feel after parking lot attack?

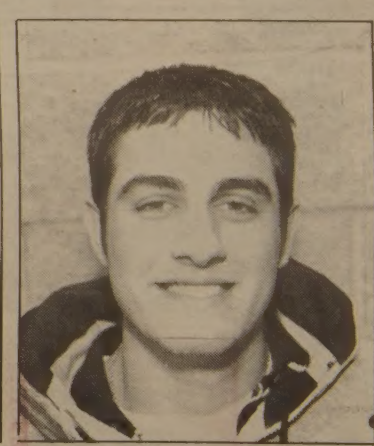
CINDY PETERS

TERESA MORIELLO



DEREK METHOT

KATE McCORMACK



JIM MORGETANO

By JENNIFER GIBSON
and GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writers

"It's scary. I walk with my friends now. Security is a lot better now," said Cindy Peters, 20, a first-year Office Administration program student.

"I feel violated. I don't walk alone to my car," said Teresa Moriello, 21, a second-year Educational Resources and Special Needs program student.

"There isn't ample security at night. We have a big campus and we need something like the security phones that they have at Brock," said Derek Methot, 20, a first-year student in the Business Sales program.

"The security should be around After Hours. They should be more obvious. This shouldn't happen again," said Kate McCormack, 20, a first-year Correctional Worker program student.

"I feel that it was a violation of privacy. The person who did it should be rightfully prosecuted," said Jim Morgetano, 18, a first-year Electrical Engineering program student.

COMMUNICATIONS

Preparing for future

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

Various awards grace the walls of Magnetic North.

A handful of Niagara College Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program students view the awards in the lobby display of the post-production company nodding their heads in approval.

Company literature boasts Magnetic North, 70 Richmond St. E., to be "one of Toronto's premiere post-production facilities since 1983." Film to tape transfers, tape-to-tape color corrections, electronic paint, animation and special effects editing are a few, but not all, of the services offered.

"This is a complete service industry," says Tony Meerakker, general manager.

Magnetic North, its sister company, Magnetic South, along with Magnetic Music and Masters Workshop make up Magnetic Enterprises. Each division has enough credentials to collectively equal a list a mile long.

Tom Pagonis, an instructor in the BRTF program, waves to a young woman busy at work.

"That's one of our students," he says beaming. He smiles at her. "Hi, Tracy!" Tracy Nolan, 22, beams right back. She's been doing a placement at Magnetic North since Feb. 3, and she'll stay there until Feb. 28. Then she's off to CTV for another placement.

She left her home in Niagara Falls to live in Toronto temporarily, where she takes two subways to get to work. Her voice rises an octave when she talks about being away from home for the first time. Giggling, she says she loves it. She shows just as much enthusiasm when speaking of Niagara College.

She says the college has "definitely" prepared her for the future, and for Magnetic North, where she'll get a taste of the various aspects of the company. Nolan says she was "unsure" about some of her skills before her placement, and found the equipment there "really intimidating" at first.

Although the college's equipment isn't exactly the same as at Magnetic North, she says she has learned the basics at school. And the college stressed attitude, she says. Nolan's attitude is positive."I have a lot of confidence," she says, adding, "I know I can do this."

Magnetic North has an impressive credentials list. It transferred the dailies (anything shot during the course of the day) and edited the digital image versions for a recent David Cronenberg film, *Crash*. The firm has worked on movies like *Fly Away Home* and *La Femme Nikita*.

The whole operation oozes professionalism. This begins with the awards in the lobby — International Monitor Award, Golden Reel Award, International Film and Television Festival of New York Bronze Medal and others. It carries on with plush client couches in softly-lit editing suites and state-of-the-art, seemingly larger-than-life equipment. It extends to the clean and very well organized shipping and receiving department.

"It's an exciting business," says Meerakker with enthusiasm. He says the days are never the same.

He also tells the story of a "hippie" type of person in Los Angeles in this business, who sits down to work and lights a seven- or eight-hour candle.

"When the candle goes out, he gets up and leaves," he says. The clients understand this. Toronto isn't quite as laid back as Los Angeles, however, and the employees at Magnetic North work hard at what they do.

"What you get out of it depends on what you put into it," says Meerakker.

Staff makes guests feel welcome

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

The taping of the Dini Petty show on Feb. 7 gave Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program instructor, Tom Pagonis, 13 BRTF students and one Journalism-Print program student a good time.

It's no wonder the show is so popular. Dini Petty, her co-host, Dan Duran, and all of the show's staff, including cameraperson, Glen Mowatt, have got to be among the friendliest people on earth. They smile at everyone and chatter away comfortably.

Deana Williams, 21, asks if she looks OK. She does. The side where she sits will be featured in close-up shots. Williams, originally from Newfoundland, says "I'd rather be behind the camera than in front of it." She's in her second year of the BRTF program at the college's Welland campus, so she's had plenty of experience behind the camera.

We are instructed to refrain from checking ourselves out on the monitor, and told to pay attention to the interviews. This is not a problem, especially considering Roger Ebert, of famed Siskel and Ebert, is one of the interviewees. He's a wonderful story-teller. Petty asks him how he decided on a career. He tells not only her, but the captive audience as well, the deciding moment was when someone showed him his byline as a child. Petty is interested and is quick to ask follow-up questions on everything Ebert says.

Mowatt sits down to set up for a shot between segments. He's full of questions, too.

"Are you here to see Ashley MacIsaac?" he asks. "What are you taking at Niagara College?" He's just as eager to answer questions from whoever asks and he's consistently friendly and polite.

Petty talks with the audience. The atmosphere is relaxed. There's a sizzle of energy when Cape Breton star, MacIsaac performs. A towel is brought to him after he finishes playing his fiddle, and he throws it toward the audience after wiping the perspiration from his forehead, but not before he asks if anyone wants the towel.

Williams says, "Grab it. Go get it, it's so close." Five feet is far enough away from the front row, however, that no one grabs it. After MacIsaac leaves, the towel is picked up by a staff member and tossed aside like a rag.

"How did you like Ashley MacIsaac?" asks Mowatt, coming over with his camera in tow. "What, you want his towel? Where is it?" He gets someone to get it, and cheerfully hands it over. A very pleased Journalism-Print program student strokes it lovingly, and allows two teenaged girls to touch it briefly. Very briefly.

Petty smiles. A draw is announced to win a basket of Valentine's Day goodies from Laura Secord, as well as other prizes. Just when the Journalism-Print program student thinks her day can't get any better, she wins the draw for the chocolate. Since it would be a conflict of interest to gobble it all up herself, she tells Williams she'll share it.

After the show, Petty and Duran hand out autographs. The taping has taken a couple of hours, but their attitudes have not wavered. The group from Niagara College says their good-byes and pack up for home. They talk about watching the show Monday and about Ebert. They ask if they can have some chocolate.

It was a sweet ride home.

Dan Duran and Dini Petty are all smiles at the taping of the Dini Petty Show at CFTO-TV in Toronto.
Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

Toronto trip teaches life lesson, strengthens friends' bond

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

Last Friday started with my definite less-than-impressed attitude towards the gods, or respective lack thereof. Why did my mother die? The thought made me pouty and cranky.

This was followed by an overwhelming case of the blues, when a close friend and I discussed the lack of dignity awarded to people when they make their final exit from this life, something she saw first-hand recently. Fortunately, our day didn't stay low.

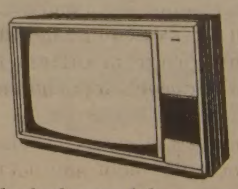
This same friend, who spent a long ride to Toronto looking sullen, transformed into an excited dreamer, barely able to contain herself.

"*This* is where I want to be," she exclaimed while we were touring a post-production house filled with fancy editing equipment. "This is what I came to school to do!"

Her mouth was open slightly as she stared, glossy-eyed at the machines. To me they looked like monsters, that growled, "Touch us, if you dare." It was obvious, however, my friend was in some sort of technological Utopia.

Although I didn't understand what all the hoopla was about, I was excited too, just because my friend was excited. It went both ways.

Later we toured the CFTO-TV station. Our guide, Ian Slack, the news manager, we were told, graduated from Niagara College in the 1970s. Another Niagara College success story, and media-related too.



I looked around the newsroom at the computer desks. I didn't dare ask our host if I might sit there. The station would have had to call the fire department to get me out of the seat. I'd certainly be on the news then. Hey, I'd *be* the news. My friend received an extra boost from my excitement.

Then I realized, this is just life, in all her ups and downs. Although there's misery, and times when nothing seems fair, there are also the moments that make life worth living. There are aspirations, giving us strength when we need it and making us work hard to get where we want to be. There are friends who share all the crap life forcefeeds us, and all the goodness sprinkled down on us. Sometimes it just takes the nasty stuff to make us appreciate the abounding sweetness.

HORTICULTURE

'Sense of freedom' from being in trees

By GORD WITTENBERG
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Horticulture Centre in St. Catharines offers an optional course in aboriculture for second-year students.

Instructor Don Papple, of St. Catharines, started teaching at the centre in 1976. Papple has a bachelor of science degree in botany, masters of science in horticulture and is a certified arborist.

Papple said "the difference between Niagara College's aboriculture program and the Ontario Training and Apprentice Board's (OTAB) program is that OTAB is set up by the government of Ontario with all the topics listed that they must cover.

"Our program covers a wider range of what the meaning of aboriculture is, so we might talk about managing a wood lot, tree lighting, urban aboriculture or tree care in a city park.

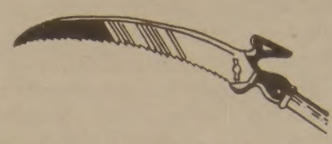
"OTAB is interested in what an actual company does which may be the removal of trees, planting trees and working near electrical wires or utility situations. For safety reasons, I would never subject any Niagara College student to a live wire situation."

Niagara College second-year Horticulture program student Jenifer Gray, 21, of Milton, Ont., enrolled in the aboriculture program which has been "predominantly male oriented in the past."

"I have always enjoyed being around trees and I'm not afraid of physical work," says Gray. "I'm willing to try and make my way into the trade. I would like to become a certified arborist in the future and, perhaps, work for the municipality."

"When I first started to climb it was nerve racking and I was a bit apprehensive about being up 30 feet in a tree, but, now I've learned to stay calm and focused on what I'm supposed to do, it's a lot easier," added Gray.

Marc Carmel, 40, of Winona, Ont., a second-year aboriculture student, says, "Horticulture for me was a career change that I made. I have always liked trees and plants so, for me, it was a logical choice to make. I felt it was time to leave the manufacturing industry."



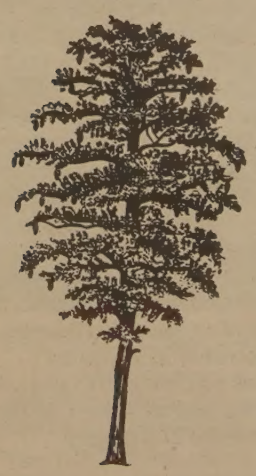
"When you're up 30 feet in a tree it gives me a sense of freedom. You also see everything in a different perspective from a different angle. Although I enjoy aboriculture I will probably pursue employment in the greenhouse industry when I graduate."

Niagara College aboriculture students Jennifer Gray, (right) Kristen Lesway, (left) and OTAB student Scott Peters.
Photo by Gord Wittenberg

OTAB student Scott Peters, 25, of St. Catharines, (centre), teaches rope climbing to second-year Niagara College aboriculture students Jennifer Gray, 21, of Milton, (right) and Kristen Lesway, 25, of Almonte, Ont.

Photo by Gord Wittenberg

Students learn basics in tree cutting through OTAB



By GORD WITTENBERG
Staff Writer

The Ontario Training and Apprentice Board (OTAB) is offering a two-year certified aboriculture apprentice program at Niagara College's Horticulture campus in St. Catharines.

Tuition for the arborist program is paid for by the Ontario government if the recipient is collecting employment insurance benefits because of a temporary, seasonal layoff in the landscape industry.

During the first year, students must successfully complete the 12-week course.

The second year involves eight weeks, plus 6,000 hours of on-the-job experience before they can write the OTAB examination, which will qualify them as a certified arborist, says part-time aboriculture teacher Andy Wood-Gaines.

Wood-Gaines, 41, of Toronto, a certified arborist and owner of Wood-Gaines Tree Service, says the program is sponsored by the Ontario government because of the high unemployment and accident rate in the aboriculture industry.

"This program differs from Niagara College's aboriculture program in that it's not a four-month, or a one-year program and it targets the unemployment and accident problem in aboriculture.

"The International Society of Aboriculture (ISA) has been trying to get professional aboriculture registered in Ontario, and now that it's recognized as a trade, the government of Ontario can provide funding. The government funds the program at Niagara College, but it's not run by the college. They (the college) couldn't afford it because of the low enrolment," says Wood-Gaines.

Scott Peters, 25, of St. Catharines, is a graduate of Niagara College's Horticulture program and operator of Green Scenes of Niagara. He is enrolled in the OTAB program.

"The horticulture program at Niagara College was broad, but in a good sense. We studied all aspects of horticulture, not just greenhouses, or nursery work so it gave me a good idea of what area I wanted to specialize in," says Peters.

"Now that I operate my own business by taking the arborist program, it will give me an opportunity to expand my business and to have an edge over other contractors because I'll be certified — a must for insurance reasons," says Peters.

OTAB teacher Andy Wood-Gaines of Toronto demonstrates climbing skills to Niagara College aboriculture students.
Photo by Gord Wittenberg

Students are taught tree biology, soils, tree planting, tree climbing, and the safe use of forestry tools and equipment. Niagara College teaches English and business skills.

Graduates would be qualified to work as consultants, for example, if a Christmas tree farm had a fire and needed an estimate for insurance, or if there was a tree removal in a residental situation, says Wood-Gaines.

EDITORIALS

NIAGARA NEWS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-7669.**

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Let's not keep secrets

Another week. Another front page news story on Canada's shame. It's the Somalia Inquest.

In 1993 a young Somali was captured by Canadian troops, tortured and killed. The military covered up the incident for a month as it did its own investigation. Former Prime Minister Kim Campbell was kept in the dark about the incident, only being told a prisoner had died while being questioned.

Informed of the murder, Campbell claims Deputy Defence Minister Bob Fowler advised her not to insist on receiving more information. According to Campbell, Fowler told her seeking additional information could be "damaging" to her career.

Blackmail? Campbell says she believes it was. Is this the country every nation has come to recognize as peace-loving and peace-keeping?

It seems more like a Hollywood concoction than real life, but guess what? We are living it everyday. How can this happen?

When the people entrusted to run this country can be perceived as threatening each other, it's a sign our government needs to be seriously scrutinized.

We, as the citizens, should feel we can rely on our government officials to do what they were hired to do, not to start acting out the script from some 'corrupt government' movie.

The government should not be keeping secrets from its citizens, let alone from itself. It should be learning from its mistakes.

Richard Mancuso

Siberian tiger running out of time

One night recently while viewing CBC's The Nature of Things with David Suzuki, we were told the Siberian tiger may be extinct by the next century.

We were appalled to have seen this exotic animal being hunted for its fur and not accepted for its beauty.

It upsets us even more to know that our generation is letting this brutality go on without putting an end to it.

According to the Wildlife Protection Society of India, many of these tigers are electrocuted, poisoned or trapped by money-hungry poachers, who use tiger bones for traditional medicines.

Don't people realize the beauty of a wildcat running wild and free?

Why must society be so cruel to an animal that represents freedom?

In a non-cannibalistic society, humans live and die as nature decides, yet society makes the decision for Siberian tigers and other wild animals to be executed.

Sadly, the Siberian tiger is becoming extinct.

In 1995, more than 75 tigers were killed by poachers, not including the tigers that died naturally in the wild or those that are held hostage in zoos.

At this rate, the Siberian tiger will be extinct before the next century.

We're not asking people to change their minds and see the Siberian tiger as we do. We just want society to have respect for the vivacious, exotic animal and to let it live its life as we live ours — until death do us part.

Penni Toneguzzo

Politics club starting

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

It's time to speak out, Niagara.

On Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 4:30 p.m., the Niagara Politics Association will be conducting its first forum in ME105, at the Welland campus.

The association is open to any full-time student at Niagara College interested in debating political affairs.

Jeff Schelhas, 20, a first-year Journalism-Print student at Niagara College, and the group's president, said the organization is a "stepping-stone" and he hopes to develop increased awareness at the college about politics.

Schelhas also indicated the association could become a future voice for Niagara.

"Hopefully, some of the ideas communicated can be proposed to the government," he said.

The group's $200 operating budget will be spent on subscriptions to the Toronto Star and Maclean's magazine. A journey to Queen's Park is being planned for early April.

Student Administrative Council (SAC) President Jason Chase said all clubs sponsored by council must be accountable for their finances.

SAC supports an assortment of clubs and is willing to promote any new ideas. A $250 fund will be allotted to organizations that present a convincing platform.

For more information about the politics club, see the advertisements posted outside the journalism room, S212.

College will continue to offer 'quality education' despite cuts

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

If it's one thing Niagara College admires, it's excellence.

Administrators at the college play a vital role in defining its distinctive personality, various strengths and undeniable quirks that maintain the institution's success.

However, Ontario colleges continue to face a profound financial crisis, making a successful formula even harder to achieve.

As Ontario Premier Mike Harris and Canada's Prime Minister Jean Chretien slam the door shut on funding to post-secondary education, administrators here have taken admirable steps in working together.

While colleges choose what resources to keep and what to eradicate, the differences between institutions are certain to become more pronounced than in the past.

Administrators at Niagara have stepped up their efforts. They have shown the college is an autonomous, competitive institution that makes decisions driven by an obligation to serve students, knowing if it fails, it will not survive.

Too often, as an institution and as individuals, we have decried what we lack instead of celebrating what we have.

Although the glory days of the 60s, 70s, and 80s are gone, when tuition was minimal and jobs were plentiful, there have been some reassuring signs of Niagara's continued growth. Among them are the long-awaited construction of a *$4.9 million residence and a $45.1* million campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Also, the college has programs that continually attract more and more students and is rewarded with a continual increase in enrolment. Many are realizing the programs offered at Niagara keep track with the reality of the workplace.

In spite of the college's considerable growth over the last few years, our administrators remain committed to maintaining the institution's size. According to college President Dan Patterson, the reason is simple: "quality education."

"In all likelihood we must stay a medium-sized institution to provide quality services," said Patterson, "this is difficult if you grow too big, too fast."

Bravo, to our administrators for an assiduous commitment to the students of Niagara and the quality of education they receive.

Based on initiatives such as the retention project and an unwavering focus on personalized learning, Niagara College epitomizes all the virtues of an institution devoted to the success of its students.

Thank you, Niagara College, for preparing students to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Your opinions welcome

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is the following:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.

2. Each letter must include the student's name, college identification number and program of study.

3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Black History month pays heed to past struggle

By KATHERINE NADEAU
Staff Writer

Their world was slavery, Underground Railroads, bounties and safe houses.

This is Black History month and across North America, it's a time to remember and celebrate achievements of people of African ancestry.

Few people know the Niagara region has a rich history as a safe haven for American blacks fleeing the slavery of southern plantations.

Celebrating that history, several local events were held.

On Feb. 9, at the St. Catharines Museum Lock 3, the Carousel Players performed a musical drama about the Underground Railroad and Harriet Tubman.

Tubman, born into slavery in 1820 on a Maryland plantation, helped over 300 slaves escape through the underground railroad, a network of homes and safe hiding places, into the northern states and Canada.

Few people know the Niagara region has a rich history as a safe haven for American blacks fleeing the slavery of southern plantations . . .

By 1858, so successful were her rescue missions, that slave owners offered a $40,000 bounty for her capture. Tubman lived in St. Catharines from 1850 to 1858, making 11 of her 19 rescue missions from there.

After the performance, Canadian author Rosemary Sadlier, president of the Ontario Black History Society, autographed copies of her newly released biography on Tubman.

Follow the North Star, a new permanent exhibit at the St. Catharines Museum, tells the history of the Underground Railroad and the many contributions of African Canadians in the community. The exhibit officially opened Oct. 20 last year and can be viewed during regular museum hours every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A portrait of Harriet Tubman by artist Brent Smith is part of the Follow the North Star exhibit.
Photo by Katherine Nadeau

Follow the North Star, a new permanent exhibit at the St. Catharines Museum, tells the history of the Underground Railroad . . .

Black History month originated in 1926 through the efforts of American Carter G. Woodson, a black historian and educator from Virginia.

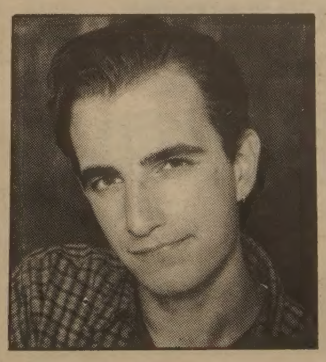
It was not until 1995 the Canadian government gave the month official status. Toronto was the site for the first Canadian event in 1979. Gradually celebrations spread across Canada.

Halifax, N.S., which has a large population of Canadians of African descent, held many events in 1996 recognizing their contributions. Among those saluted was Viola Desmond.

Her arrest and conviction in 1946 was pivotal in the abolition of segration in Nova Scotia. Desmond made the mistake of sitting on the whites-only main floor of a theatre. There was a 19-cent tax difference between the cost of those seats and balcony seats. Her action constituted tax fraud.

The provincial government's legal reaction to this sparked the black movement in Nova Scotia which abolished segregation in 1954.

Even Socrates couldn't figure Snobelen out



By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Strolling through the central arcade of the Academy, one epic, bright and blinding day, I was teeming with glee after happening upon "the wisest man in all Greece."

A gentle man he was, with a wide ranging mind, and the subject of pure admiration by me as well as many an apprenticing scholar in Athens.

"Greetings, Socrates!" I hailed, as I trotted up to him and extended my hand. "I am Adamontian, pupil of Lysis. May I walk with you and be privy to your reflections on this day?"

"Capital, my young friend. Yes, join me and walk me to the state's halls," he said with a wide, knowing grin. "But come, tell me of Lysis. How did you come to know him?"

But before I could reply, a strange coincidence did occur, as Socrates and I were stopped short in our tracks by one of Athens's most notoriously counterproductive politicians, the very politician, as it would happen, that Socrates was on his way to address.

'We're in the business of direct investment return here.'

"Hello, Socrates," he sneered.

"Hello, Snobelenafugus," replied Socrates, who at least made an arguably authentic attempt at hiding his dislike.

Snobelenafugus was a failure as a recognized scholar, yet had somehow managed to attain a high state position as director of education. He was no friend to those of Athenian scholarly culture, and was even thought to have obtained his most celebrated ideas from his adolescent nephew.

"I was just now on my way to have you bespeak your reasoning behind this foolhardy approval for the allowance of tuition increases throughout the various schools of Athens," said Socrates. "As I believe that no man knowingly does wrong, I can only postulate that it is your regrettable lack of experience regarding the ideal, purpose, and importance of knowledge and education, that has led you to make such a soft-headed and myopic decision. Surely, there must lie reason here which is simply beyond my humble understanding."

"Yes, of course. Well Soc, it's like this. You know those new aqueducts we're talking about installing here in the capital? Well, we need trained men to build them. Just short-contract work mind you, but still, why do we need all these philosophy students lounging about going on about Homer all the time? Where's the job market feasibility?"

Blank stares from both of us.

"OK. You like asking questions, right Soc?"

"Well, of course, it's called dialectical method and . . ."

'I was always too honest a man to be a politician and live.'

"Yeah, well let me ask you this. Is it fair to ask taxpayers to pay over 70 per cent of state school costs, when all we're going to get is students who just ask questions, students who have a broad — a little too broad if you ask me — liberal arts education, students trained in analytical thinking, but nothing specific?

"Harboring an intellectually nurturing environment so that young learners can grow and prosper into the harmonious, vibrant and productive citizens of an even more glorious future generation is fine, if you're into progressive and evolutionary comprehensive education. But we're in the business of direct investment return here. We need marketable results from your precious Academy — yesterday."

Before either of us could reply, Snobelenafugus was already saying "thank you" and shaking our hands. He then briskly made off down a nearby alley in the opposite direction of an approaching throng of egg-wielding students.

I tried to remind him about all the state-commissioned reports and surveys about the future of Athens prepared and compiled by some of our state's most prominent members, but he just said, "Yes, comrade, yes. We know all about those."

"Reflecting," said Socrates. "I recall why I was always too honest a man to be a politician and live."

By this time however, the low, orange sun was sprouting tall evening shadows all around us. We parted with a promise on our lips to meet again, bright and early the next day.

United Way reaches 99 per cent of South Niagara funding goal

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara has again committed its services to helping the community through a successful 1996 campaign.

With community growth of six per cent, the United Way team was able to face the challenges and raise 99 per cent of their goal, totalling $794,326.

Brian Blowes, 1996 United Way campaign chair, brought the campaign through a challenging year of fundraising, keeping in mind the growing needs of the community.

Layoffs, strikes and increasing demands also impacted the efforts of Blowes and the United Way volunteers.

A number of companies showed their commitment to the community through corporate matches.

The United Way also requires new growth in the community to continue to meet the needs of the people and new responsibilities as they arise.

Some of the award winning groups and their levels of participation the United Way would like to acknowledge are: education at 22 per cent; Welland financial, professional, individual gifts and special events at 69 per cent; Pelham retail/financial at nine per cent; Pelham individuals at 17 per cent; Port Colborne industrial, financial, public, retail, special events services at 120 per cent; Wainfleet retail at 10 per cent and Wainfleet individuals at 26 per cent.

The United Way has chosen its 1997 campaign chair, Matt Botden. He led the United Way campaign at Casco, Port Colborne, where he works as plant manager. He also served as the chair for the Port Colborne Division of the South Niagara campaign in 1996.

United Way
Member Agency

Check it out!

The Feb. 21st Niagara News will feature a story about the BRTF new weekly 30-minute news and information program.The show airs Thurs. at noon and reruns at 6:30 p.m.

Help for eating disorders only a support group away

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

Finally there's help for people with eating disorders in the Niagara Region as February marks Celebrate Your Natural Size Month.

Bambra Nutrition is organizing informational support groups in Niagara for people with chronic dieting and eating disorders.

The sessions will be lead by a nutritionist and a person recovering from an eating disorder.

Port Colborne and Ridgeway areas are targetted for the first group.

The goal is to address chronic dieting and eating disorders in an environment that is positive, nurturing and accepting. The format for, and topics of, the meeting will be directed by the group.

Sylvia Bambra, nutritionist from Bambra Nutrition, said what the public wants is more information for prevention.

"This is very preventable," she said, adding if the family can recognize the signs, they may be able to help earlier.

"There are people who have been suffering for 30 years and are in their 50s and 60s now. It is very sad."

"It is very emotional," she said. "Food is only a symptom of all the other things that go along with it."

Bambra Nutrition has numerous events planned during the next few weeks.

If looks could kill is a one-woman theatrical workshop written and performed by Susan Hurst. It will be performed at schools throughout the Niagara Region. The workshop targets students in Grade 6 to Ontario Academic Credit.

"The goal is to help young people to identify stresses and pressures to change their body shape and to prevent eating disorders," Bambra said.

There was a community forum held at St. Catharines' Brock University on Feb. 4 to provide help and information to family, friends and individuals.

Bambra said there has been a "tremendous response."

Another workshop is scheduled for March 1 at the Rathfon Inn in Port Colborne. It is aimed at parents and others who are supporters for those with eating disorders. The cost is $30 per person or $50 per couple and the workshop runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Bambra Nutrition at 894-6805.

Body image is an all-consuming focus for some people. The National Eating Disorder Information Centre says 90 per cent of women are dissatisfied with the way they look; 80 per cent of Canadian women have dieted by 18.

The centre says 66 per cent of young women have experimented with the binge/purge cycle associated with bulimia and 15 per cent have numerous symptoms associated with an eating disorder.

Anorexia nervosa is the complete denial of hunger which leads to starving oneself. Bulimia nervosa is the act of compulsive eating and purging.

According to the centre, dieting is ineffective 95 per cent of the time resulting in a sense of failure, depression and numerous health problems. Chronic dieting can lead to compulsive eating as a sense of real hunger is lost.

Summer jobs for students

By SHELLEY PARKES
Staff Writer

For a summer job with excitement and fun, maybe a children's camp is the choice.

"Some (camps) want people for traditional jobs such as cooks and lifeguards," said Janet Forfar, of Niagara College's Employment Services at the Welland campus.

"This year we have been getting more (job request) applications," she said. "They have been trying to recruit more through the college campuses.

"If you are looking for summer work, get out there first and get the good ones," said Forfar.

A few of the office's current requests are from Camp Wahanowin, Camp Trillium, the Ontario Camping Association and Camp Walden.

People who are fluent in French or Spanish can find jobs as cabin counsellors at Camp Wahanowin in Orillia, Ont. Positions are available in cooking, arts and crafts, sports, cleaning and office work. F-class drivers and lifeguards with Bronze Cross designations to work on the waterfront are needed as well.

Jobs are available from the end of April to the end of June or August and from June 23 to Aug. 13.

For more information, contact Camp Wahanowin (227 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto, Ont., M4R 1A9) by phoning (416) 482-2600 or by faxing (416) 482-2860.

Camp Trillium, at Garrett's Island in Bloomfield, Ont., is a camp for children with cancer.

The camp offers an 11-day overnight program for children and teens, as well as a seven-day program for families.

A travelling day camp program offers one-week programs for four- to seven-year-old children in 11 cities across Ontario and a one-week family camp in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Positions are available for camp counsellors and volunteers.

For more information, contact Employment Services at the college or call the Camp Trillium office at (613) 542-1113.

The Ontario Camping Association is also looking for interested people.

Applicants must be 17 years old by July 31. An $18 service fee per season will be charged.

For more information, write to Ontario Camping Association, 1810 Avenue Rd., Suite 302, Toronto, Ont., M5M 3Z2 or call (416) 781-0525. Employment Services will also handle your requests.

Camp Walden, in North York, Ont., needs people for counselling, sports, crafts, theatre, cooking, maintenance, nursing and film and video employment posts.

Information is available through Employment Services or contact Camp Walden at 3768 Bathurst St., Unit 311, North York, Ont., M3H 3M7 or call (416) 635-0049.

Employment Services has information on these and other job opportunities. Some applications are available but must be mailed directly to the camps.

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Ideas from class representatives 'are important'

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Communication between Student Administrative Council (SAC) and the student body of Niagara College needs some improvement.

Class representatives at a Feb. 4 meeting discussed and voiced their concern over a variety of issues, but Tiffany Fox, SAC student representative, said it "would have been nice" to see a few more class representatives in attendance.

"The walls were lined at the beginning of the year," said Fox, who chaired the meeting.

There were eight class representatives at the meeting. According to SAC officials, there should have been at least 25 students at the meeting.

"Maybe they're not seeing the signs — even though they're all over the college's bulletin boards, or maybe it's just because of scheduling conflicts, or homework or some other outside activities," said Fox. "It's a volunteer thing after all."

Maybe they're just "bored," said Natalie Chambers, SAC student representative.

SAC student representative Jason Marazzo said he has"no idea why people or classes aren't interested" in class representative activities.

"A lot of classes don't even know their reps. Maybe their teachers or co-ordinators don't mention it, or they just forget."

Two class representatives were expected to be elected from each class at the beginning of the school year. Their job is to relay the needs and ideas of students to the three student representatives who in turn report to SAC.

In total, there are about 50 class representatives. They are divided into two separate groups of 25, and each group has one meeting a month.

"The responsibility is on everybody," said Anne Frost, class representative, and a second-year Computer Programmer/Analyst program student. "But class reps choose to take the responsibility on by taking the position."

'The responsibility is on everybody,' Anne Frost

People were "kind of lax" at the meeting, said Frost. "I don't think that we've accomplished too much today. It was like they had other things on their minds."

Still, Frost said the communication between SAC and the student body is "a process that needs to be done."

"A class rep has a big job. They have to try to pump up their fellow course students. They have to relay whatever comes about at the meetings to their fellow students."

She said she realizes there are financial, lifestyle and scheduling constraints on class representatives and that these often keep attendance low, but "class reps have to do their job. There has to be that communication between council and the class representatives, and their fellow students.

"Without input, it must be hard for them (SAC) to change things."

However, too little student involvement may only be half the problem, said Kathleen McArthur, class representative and first-year Journalism-Print program student.

'Without input, it must be hard for them (SAC) to change things,' - McArthur

When student representatives report to the rest of SAC about class representative meetings, McArthur said "something is lost in the translation.

"We have some good ideas, but how many of them are getting back to SAC? I think *some* of it is taken back to council. A lot of time these ideas are just not getting back to the students," she said.

"The ideas we get from class representatives are important, and they are being used," said Chambers, explaining if SAC isn't in a position to address a student concern, the message will be passed on to someone who can.

"Memos are sent out to the appropriate people" whenever it's necessary, she said.

"If they don't think it is getting brought to SAC, all they have to do is tell us," said Fox. "We'll see if we can fix the problem. We usually do the follow-up."

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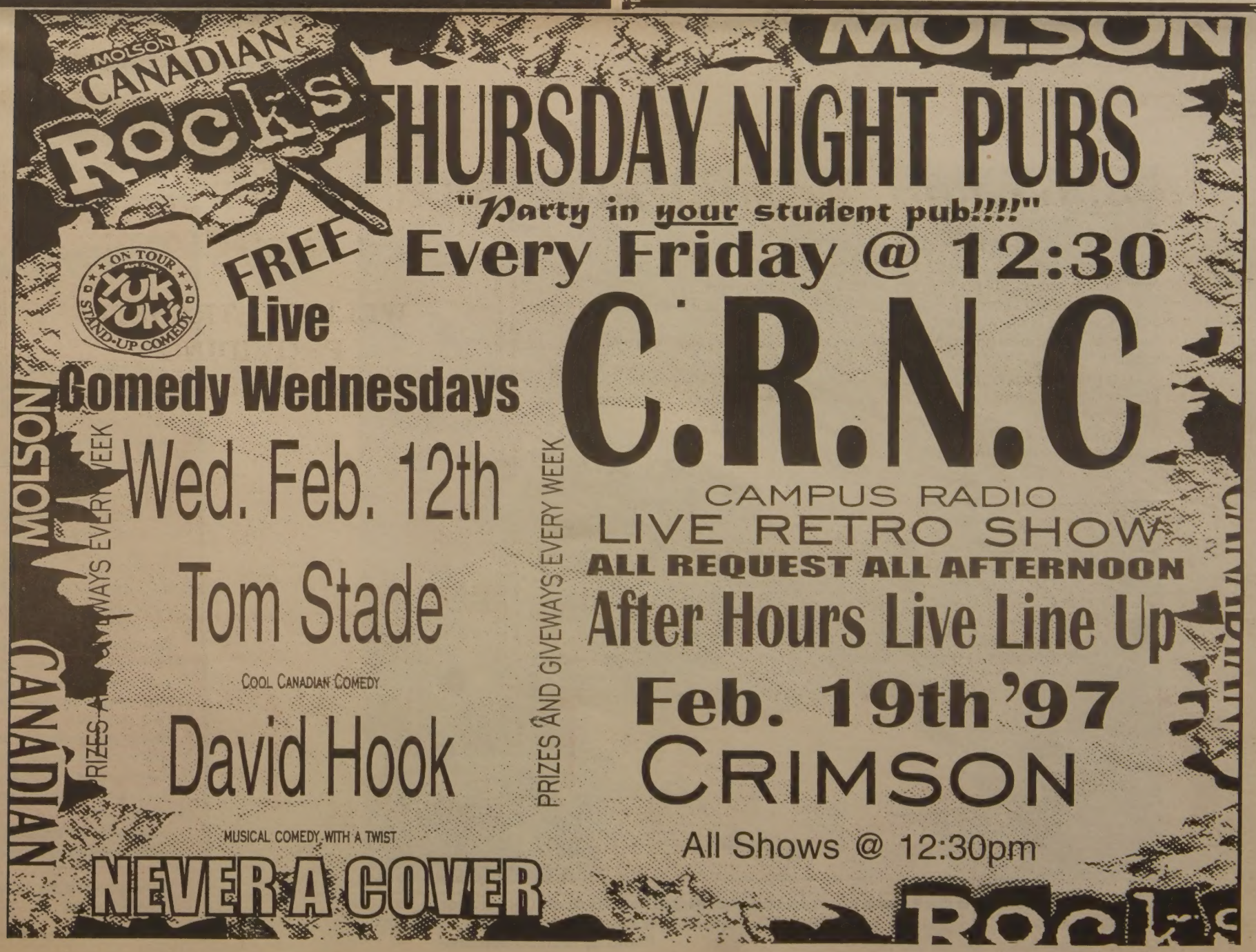

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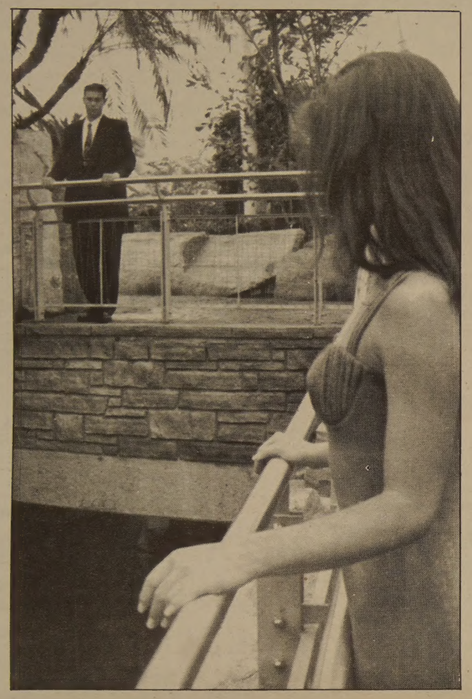


Heartbeats quicken as lovers become lost in each other's eyes.

Photo by Richard Mancuso and Keri-Lynn Smith

Souls on fire call out to each other, yearning for eternity.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

Embraces turn electric, seemingly stopping time.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith and Richard Mancuso

The caress of a butterfly is like a gentle lover's touch at the Niagara Parks Butterfly Conservatory in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Photo by Richard Mancuso

Two become one

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

Two.

That is the beginning of a fusion. These two ingredients are necessary in order to combine and synthesize the creation of something single. Two things may not always be compatible, but imagine the possibilities if they were.

A union of two separate entities includes many things in the world around us. Many times they oppose each other and never come to a "golden mean."

As thinking beings, humans have yet to find the medium between good and evil, joy and sadness, dismissal and grief, and a myriad of other timeless dualities, but we do conquer a number of these extremes when we fall in love with someone.

We defy many odds when we meet and fall in love with the right person. As we grow from childhood to adolescence to adulthood, we are constantly learning and gaining new experiences. Because we are so full of uncertainties and curiosities, we are in a sense abstract.

But when we finally meet a person so compatible, we find we begin to bind with that person. We start building a union. It can take a lot of searching to meet someone we can feel comfortable with. After finding the right person, we let down the innate barriers in our souls to allow another person in.

After love is established with someone else, this abstraction that two people have coming into a relationship begins to solidify. Eventually, the love two people have for each other becomes concrete. As a block of marble or stone sits on the ground, love becomes as simple and stable as that rock.

Love should never have to be so complicated that it needs to be picked apart and analyzed. Like a rock being chipped at, it eventually will crumble.

The solid rock is two people in love.

Two become one.

Romance is captured forever in stone at Assiniboine Park in Winnipeg, Man.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

INTERNATIONAL

International enrolment continues to increase

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

More than 8,000 miles is a long trek, especially when a student makes it to attend college.

Yet 20-year-old Sinyoung Kim made the journey from her hometown of Seongnam, South Korea, to Welland, to enrol in Niagara College's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program.

Kim, a first-year student, came to Canada in June 1995 "to study English." She said learning the language is "really important to get a job," adding Canada's good reputation helped her decide to study here.

She didn't hesitate for a moment when explaining her choice of program. "I love children. I want to know how to guide children in a positive way."

Kim has three or four classes each day to learn about teaching children. Then, for three hours a day she applies her knowledge working at the college's day-care centre.

She works with a group of 12 children who are four to five years old. Immersed in her work, she subtly teaches the children good manners while painting pictures, making crafts or playing games.

Kim shakes her head at the mention of fingerpainting. She says the children at the day-care centre do not take the brushless approach to painting because it could prove dangerous. "They eat the paint," she says, bringing her fingers to her mouth mimicking the children's actions. Kim adds she has seen children eating pudding this way.

Kim uses her hands, too, but only to gesture when she talks. A little green smudge stands out on her left hand. Spread around her are twelve green marker-colored paper plates with the centres cut out. Kim explains she has colored and cut the plates for the children to make Valentine wreaths, decorating the bases with hearts, leaves and flowers.

Kim says she doesn't favor any one child, but likes them equally, although she says the children can be frustrating. "Sometimes the children don't listen. It's really hard. I change my voice and facial expression to be more stern," she says, adding, "I don't think it's working." Her lips turn up into a smile brightening her face.

Sinyoung Kim sits surrounded by children at the day-care centre. Clockwise from left are Shelby Loveless, 5, Owen Demers, 4, Laura Fischer, 5, Jake Mcallister, 5 and Jenna Dempsey, 5.
Photo by Melissa Labbe

Her smile returns when she talks about the accomplishment of which she is most proud. She laughs, covering her mouth as she says, "I passed last term." Right away she explains she wasn't completely comfortable making presentations before her class in English.

Kim says she was "upset and scared" when she "got a low mid-term mark." She says she worked hard and in the second half of the term she received no "unsatisfactory" marks.

After graduating, Kim plans to return to Korea and study the Korean equivalent of the ECE program.

Asked about her personal plans, she straightens up, widens her eyes and says, "Of course I want to get married." However, she says she doesn't want a big family, just a son and daughter.

ESL students relax at web site cafe

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

Learning English is not quite as big a deal for the English as a Second Language (ESL) program students anymore.

They can now visit Dave's ESL Cafe web site, "where learning English is fun."

The site not only helps students improve their English skills but connects them with other students and teachers anywhere in the world.

"It's great for students," says Fiona Allan, 31, a Niagara College ESL teacher. She says she has shown the web site to every class she teaches.

She says students can learn English, as well as share their experience and knowledge.

Students are afraid of writing, but "when they read other students' writing on the web, eventually they get to write," says Allan, adding it's "good extra practice for our students."

Dave's ESL Cafe consists of 13 items: Discussion Centre, Idiom Page, Quote Page, Job Centre, Quiz Centre, Help Centre, Search Page, Idea Page, Graffiti Wall, Question Page, ESL Student Links, ESL Teacher Links, Message Exchange, Teacher E-mail Connection and Student E-mail Connection.

Allan says students like the Idiom Page where "they can do some learning" and the Quiz Page where "they can put their own quizzes" for other ESL students in the world. Also, if students put their questions on the Question Page, they get answers back right away, says Allan.

She says she also uses the ESL Cafe herself because she can share teaching ideas with other ESL teachers in the world.

This web site was created in December 1995 by Dave Sperling, an ESL instructor in the Intensive English Language program at California State University, of Northridge, Calif.

Sperling, 35, says he wanted to make writing "fun," so he created the ESL Graffiti Wall (where students can write anything they want) on the web.

A few weeks later, he says he began the ESL Question Page, "where I answered questions from students and teachers from various parts of the world. Step by step I added more and more interactive creations to my virtual Cafe."

Sperling says the reaction is "very positive." He receives comments from ESL students every day through E-mail, he says, adding it makes him happy.

Sperling taught English in Thailand, Japan and Vietnam for eight years after he got his bachelor's degree in psychology at Pepperdine University in California in 1982.

In 1995, he achieved his master's degree in Applied linguistics/TESL (Teaching English as a Second Language) at California State University.

Sperling says his first book *The Internet Guide for English Language Teachers* is published by Prentice Hall Regents and will be available next month.

"I've written it for the many ESL teachers that are just now getting on-line and are looking for a place to begin their journey," he says.

Dave's ESL cafe consists of 13 items

He is also the owner of a company called ESL Cafe. Sperling says it is pioneering ways for ESL/EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students to learn English via the Internet.

"I kept my ESL Cafe non-commercial throughout 1995 and 1996 but will need to generate some income this year, so that I can continue to build and maintain such a dynamic and popular site."

Sperling says he's planning to make "The ESL Cafe Bookstore" in association with Amazon Company, the largest bookstore on the Internet.

"I'll be arranging, reviewing and linking hundreds of ESL books available at Amazon at a discounted price. Even if nobody purchases, it's going to be an amazing ESL bibliography."

Sperling says the Internet can be an effective tool for ESL students because of the diverse collection of resources, software and information. "Most importantly, ESL students can use the Net to communicate with other ESL students and teachers throughout the world."

For more information:
www.pacificnet.net/~sperling/eslcafe.html
E-mail : Sperling@eslcafe.com

International enrolment continues to increase

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

International enrolment continues to grow at Niagara College.

The number of international students has increased from five to 52 over the past five years.

The 1996-97 academic year has seen international enrolment peak. Sean Coote, Niagara College's international student adviser, credits the increase to the college's aggressive marketing approach and its quality services offered to international students.

"International students don't depend on funding from the government," said Coote.

In the coming academic year, international students will pay $8,900 tuition for a diploma program at Niagara. Currently, Canadian students pay about $1,275 per year.

However, the majority of students studying from abroad come to attend the English as a Second Language (ESL) program. Tuition is $3,400 per term.

"The average student will take about three or four terms over one calender year to complete the program," said Jos Nolle, the manager of International Education at Niagara College. "That's over $10,000 in tuition fees alone."

Niagara College is offering a new International Post-Graduate Certificate Series, specially designed for international graduates of college or university. This will begin for the 1997-98 academic year.

"On average, eight courses will be studied by the post-graduate with students spending $1,150 per course," said Nolle.

Minako Yamaguchi, from Japan, is a 20-year-old international student studying in a diploma program.

Minako said she chose Niagara College because of the ESL program. Successfully graduating the program, Yamaguchi decided to enrol in the Journalism-Print program.

"Tuition here is very expensive, but compared to Japan, it's much cheaper."

Tuition fees at Japanese universities can reach up to $30,000 per academic year.

"There are more people living in Japan and a high level of competition at university makes things much more difficult," she said.

The journalism student said she would like to work in Canada as a sports reporter.

Not long ago, Nolle said there was some resentment at Canadian colleges and universities on campus and off, about the number of foreign students attending post-secondary institutions and competing for jobs, said Nolle.

However, international students do not compete with Canadian students for jobs. Canadian immigration rules usually require them to go home when their studies are completed.

After graduation, the students "are permitted to work up to a year in Canada, provided they work in the same field they studied," said Coote.

Coote estimates students studying abroad spend from $500,000 to $1 million in the Niagara Region.

STAR WARS

Revamped Star Wars blasts into 1997

By MIKE HASTINGS
Staff Writer

"A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. . ."

Wow! What a blast!

The re-release of **Star Wars**, Jan. 31, with its new digital-imaging technology is a breath of fresh air.

George Lucas, creator of the **Star Wars Trilogy**, and his brilliant Industrial Light and Magic (ILM) staff took the legendary **Star Wars**, originally released on May 25, 1977, and gave it a successful face-lift.

Lucas took three years and $10 million to fix up **Star Wars** to what he wanted originally 20 years ago.

Cleaning the original film negatives, bigger and better special effects, improving the sound quality and the addition of new and impressive creatures have reshaped this into a remarkable film.

"Each of the films in their own way fell short of my ideal creative vision," said Lucas in a recent press release. "With the digital-imaging technology that ILM has pioneered, I have had the rare opportunity to go back and complete the first trilogy the way that I originally intended."

This new special edition of **Star Wars** has 4 1/2 minutes of new footage.

Most of the new time takes place at Mos Eisley, the small town in the old **Star Wars**. The town is now a busy spaceport with new creatures and a new cityscape.

"A lot of work has gone into enhancing the entry into Mos Eisley," said Lucas. "Now we're able to travel through the town, see how big it is, see that it truly is a spaceport and make the scene a more interesting experience."

Lucas was able to put the confrontation scene between Jabba the Hutt and Han Solo (Harrison Ford) back in. He couldn't use it in the original for lack of time, money and technology.

"I really wanted to put that back in there," said Lucas, "because it was relevant to what happens to Han at the end of the movie and in **The Empire Strikes Back** (1980) and **Return of the Jedi** (1983)."

Other new footage to look for is the sandcrawler, a huge vehicle the tiny Jawas drive over rocky terrain; Imperial stormtroopers walking around the Tatoonie desert with a lizard-type creature called a dewback; and the bar scene in which Han Solo is confronted by Greedo, who gets a shot fired at Solo this time around.

Most of today's generation was either too young to remember **Star Wars** or wasn't even born when it was first released. For them, the only way to experience **Star Wars** was on video.

To see **Star Wars** again on the big screen is an experience in itself and is absolutely mind-blowing. **Star Wars** must have been the reason movie theatres were built.

Aside from the new footage and changes, the story of **Star Wars** remains the same. Luke Skywalker, played by Mark Hamill, teams up with Sir Alec Guinness as Jedi Knight Ben "Obie-Wan" Kenobi. Harrison Ford is the cocky Han Solo, Peter Mayhew is the seven-foot-three-inch tall Wookiee Chewbacca, and Anthony Daniels and Kenny Baker are the mechanical droids C-3PO and R2-D2. They rescue Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia Organa from the dark side, headed by the Imperial Governor Grand Moff Tarkin (played by Peter Cushing) and Lord Darth Vader (played by David Prowse and voiced by James Earl Jones) and blow up the battle station The Death Star.

Now that the **Star Wars Trilogy** is being re-released, it is interesting to get the names of celebrities who were in the running for some of the lead roles.

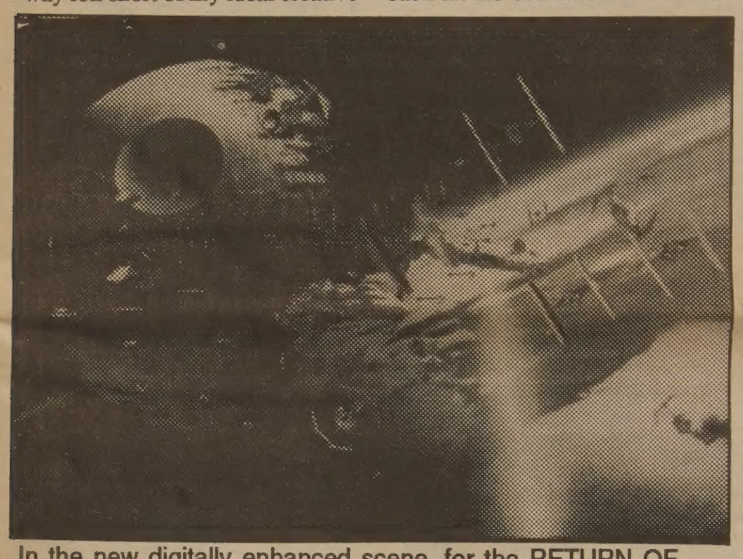
Christopher Walken, Burt Reynolds and Nick Nolte were all candidates for the role of Han Solo. Sissy Spacek was originally Princess Leia, but swapped parts with Fisher, who refused to do the nude scenes in the movie **Carrie.** Jodie Foster was also up for the part of Leia.

The Empire Strikes Back Special Edition will be in theatres on Feb. 21. **Return of the Jedi Special Edition** will be released on March 7.

These newly re-released trilogies will be followed by brand new prequels, scheduled for 1999, 2001 and 2003.

I highly recommend seeing this exciting and entertaining film on the big screen while you can.

"May the force be with you."



In the new digitally enhanced scene, for the RETURN OF THE JEDI SPECIAL EDITION, a battle rages around the Empire's new Death Star.

Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

The Imperial Storm Troopers on Tatooine.

Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), and Han Solo (Harrison Ford) battle off Imperial Storm Troopers aboard the Death Star.

Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Classic film brings fans back into the seats

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

It's amazing.

I couldn't believe that 1 1/2 hours before the movie started, a line up had formed.

Star Wars has had such an amazing response the second time around. But I really don't know why I was so surprised.

When my boyfriend, Ryan, and I first saw the preview for the re-release, others in the theatre were obviously pleased and I thought Ryan was going to jump out of his seat.

I figured all Ryan's excitement was because they were his favorite movies. I didn't realize everybody loved them so much.

But, from December, I knew what I'd be doing on the Saturday after the release. I just didn't realize everyone else would be doing the same thing.

I was driving with my dad the night of the re-release and the all-talk radio station was discussing the anticipated success it would have two decades after its original release.

Some holier-than-thou entertainment reporter came on the radio and said the real "classic" event that weekend would be the birthday of a small-time, not-well-known director.

In the same breath he demeaned the effect Star Wars was going to have. It was not, he said, a classic.

These movies, by George Lucas, had such an enormous effect on the public that by noon on Friday all shows of the day had been sold out. By one hour before the 1:30 p.m. show on Saturday there were 70 people already in line.

People were so intriuged by these movies that television and radio hosts were speculating on the previously-cut scenes that had been added.

Its second release drew in millions of dollars and made it one of the top ten most profitable openings of all time.

I think this movie can be considered a classic.

CD enters a new dimension

By MIKE HASTINGS
Staff Writer

The Star Wars Original Motion Picture Soundtrack is a must have for Star Wars' fans.

This special edition 2-CD set is the complete score in the sequence of the film; this soundtrack will not be re-issued once it is sold out.

It opens with Alfred Newman's *Twentieth Century-Fox Fanfare*, a hallmark of the musical tradition.

The music is performed by the London Symphony Orchestra and the music is composed and conducted by John Williams, who has scored music for movies like **Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Hook, Home Alone** and **E.T. - The Extra-Terresterial.**

The highlights of the Star Wars soundtrack are *Main Title/Rebel Blockade Runner, Cantina Band, Cantina Band #2,* and *The Throne Rome-End Title.*

As a bonus, the end of the first CD has the recordings of all five recorded takes on the main theme.

The 2-CD set is accompanied with a hardcover booklet that explains the significance of each piece, pictures from the movie and the recording log for the **Star Wars** scoring sessions.

The sound quality of this soundtrack is crisp and clear. It sounds as if the listener is placed in the middle of the movie.

This special edition soundtrack is definitely worth the $35 price for this 2-CD set.

Princess Leia is held captive by Jabba the Hutt in RETURN OF THE JEDI SPECIAL EDITION.

Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

SPORTS

Curling team sweeps regional tournament

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara's mixed curling team swept its way to victory at the Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association (OCAA) regional tournament Feb. 8.

The Knights, having home ice advantage, won all three games played Feb. 7 and 8 at the Welland Curling Club.

"They've played really well, better than I expected for them," said head coach Brian Nagy. "It's their first year together as a group and they're coming together really well."

Niagara took a 13-0 win over Hamilton's Mohawk College in the first game.

Nagy said the team has a lot of experience through competition play in high school.

Niagara then faced the Cambrian Golden Shields of Sudbury, Ont. and beat them 8-1.

"We played great. We scored all our points by stealing and we only had the hammer twice in the whole tournament," said skip Scott Banner. "That's excellent if you only hammer twice and you win all your games."

It was no contest in the third and final game when the Knights took on the Seneca Braves of North York, Ont. beating the Braves 9-0.

Banner said the team made no errors, playing "exceptionally well," which made his job throwing the last rock.

"I didn't have any tough shots. They made it easy for me," said Banner.

Team members include skip Banner, vice-skip Tara Clark, second Jason Stelmaschuk, lead Melanie Rodrigue and spare Carlos Pena.

"If we play this good at the provincials I think we have a good shot at winning," Banner said.

After sweeping the competition, Naggy said they won their games with high scores and without any trouble.

"I'd say they're pretty well prepared to go and coming back with the gold."

Niagara's curling team sweeps their way to victory.
Photo by Randy Syer

Knights optimistic despite loss

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

The Niagara women's basketball team took on Toronto's Seneca College on Feb. 7.

The Knights were defeated 82-42.

Niagara coach Brian Bleich said his team worked hard on defence, causing the 30-second shot clock for Seneca to run out more than five times.

He said his team did "a good job handling the press break."

"Andrea (Flindall) played a lot better tonight. She just went out there and played. She did a good job," said Bleich.

Manie Roy was the top scorer for the Knights with 12 points.

Flindall added 11 points, Stephanie Kranjec, 10, Stephanie Lawson, five, and Michelle Pring and Trinity Smith added two points each.

"I was impressed with how well the ball moved around," said Tara Petrachenko, Niagara's assistant coach.

"They're not just shooting. They're waiting for the open shot," added Petrachenko.

Stephanie Lawson tries to stop a Seneca Scout from shooting.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

Bleich said he thinks Roy should start realizing she's a good player.

"The other teams know she's a good player. They try to shut her down."

Bleich said Pring played the best defensively.

"Michelle played a good game," added Petrachenko.

The Niagara women's basketball team have had two wins and six losses throughout their season, ranking the same as Mohawk College in Hamilton.

The team's next home game is Saturday at 1 p.m. against Oshawa's Durham College.

Andrea Flindall takes flight towards the basket.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

Volleyball team in playoffs following double victories

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's volleyball team have clinched a playoff spot with two straight victories last week.

On Feb. 5, Niagara travelled to Ancaster, Ont. to face Redeemer College and won three games to zero (15-8, 15-5, 15-8).

Leading the way for Niagara was team captain Pat Deschambeault with 13 points, rookie Kerby Bentley had 10 points and Paul Clark and Shawn Reimer each added seven points.

In their second game of the week on Feb. 8, Niagara faced the Mohawk Mountaineers of Hamilton. The Knights got out to a fast start winning the first two games (15-12, 15-7) before losing in the third game (12-15). They then finished Mohawk off in the fourth (15-8).

"We didn't play well," said head coach Blair Cudmore. "We played reasonably well enough to beat them. We played down to their level that's just the characteristic of this team."

Leading scorers for Niagara were all-star Deschambeault who scored 22 points, Shawn Reimer added 20, and Paul Clark chipped in with 15 points.

Cudmore said Niagara must be mentally prepared to play.

"As long as the guys are ready to play, we should have some success," said Cudmore. "If we peak at the right time, our setbacks won't matter."

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Team's first volleyball win

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Meredith Sharpe took home player of the game honors as the Niagara College's women's volleyball team recorded their first win of the season Feb. 11.

After losing the first game 15-8, Niagara came back to win the next three games (15-7, 15-4, 15-6) and beat visiting Oakville's Sheridan College.

"We finally started to play good defense," said head coach Carolyn Schatz. "Reaction time was much better. They're digging, getting hungry and picking up loose balls."

Niagara finished the season with one win and nine defeats. In this game, Niagara got strong performances from Sharpe, who had eight kills for 10 points. Cindy Jarry scored eight points and Andrea Rive added seven.

Manie Roy scores 18 in defeat

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Manie Roy scored 18 points but it wasn't enough as Niagara lost by three.

On Feb. 11 the Knights' women's basketball team travelled to Mohawk College of Hamilton and lost 49-46.

Scoring for Niagara were Stephanie Kranjec with 10 points and Michelle Pring, who added eight for the 2-9 Knights.

Niagara's next action at home is versus Durham College of Oshawa on Feb. 15 at 1 p.m.

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Niagara Knights solid against the Redeemer Royals

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's all-star Mike Harris put in a solid performance scoring a game high 27 points on the way to a second straight team victory.

The Niagara men's basketball team hosted Redeemer College of Ancaster and defeated the Royals 111-65 on Feb. 5.

"It's just an indication of the way we've been playing," said head coach Randy Conlon. "The Lambton game was our turning point and we've been playing intense and hard ever since."

Along with Harris, Mike Hurley chipped in with 27 points, which included sinking seven three-pointers.

"I'm happy, we got 54 points out of our back court. I'd put our back court up against any back court in Ontario," said Conlon.

Niagara was one three-pointer away from breaking the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association league record of 15 three-pointers.

Andy Medhurst lays the ball up in a 111-65 Niagara victory against Redeemer College.
Photo by Randy Syer

Conlon said he was happy with the scoring of the team.

Eight minutes into the game, Niagara forward Steve Dever went down when he rolled on his ankle. Dever was forced to leave the game and will be lost for the season.

Conlon described Dever's injury as "a big loss" that weakens his bench.

'I'd put our back court up against any back court in Ontario.' - Conlon

"Even though we won the game, it was tough in the long run losing a player like that," said Conlon. "He was just starting to play well. The guys are going to have to pick it up even more than they have."

Other Niagara scorers were Andy Medhurst with 15 points and Mike Conradi with 11 points.

Niagara's last home game is Feb. 21 against London's Fanshawe College at 8 p.m. It's the team's last game of the regular season.

Athletes too young to be 'wined and dined'

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Getting famous fast can be a problem for the young athlete.

Every year, a young superstar comes up from the amateur ranks and is "wined and dined" with all sorts of luxuries. For most, these luxuries are more than the young athlete has seen in his or her life.

In some cases, the athletes are blown away. This instant fame can destroy their lives, along with the lives of their families.

The athletes that can't handle the pressure of this instant fame often crack and turn to drugs or alcohol for a way out.

In today's complex society, athletes are always put on a pedestal. They have to be at peace with themselves in order to handle the pressures, such as having friends you've never had before, owning instant millions and being in the spotlight 24 hours a day.

The case of basketball's Len Bias is a short but sad story of how being thrown in the "limelight" can shorten your life. Bias was a blue-chipper from the University of Maryland who was hailed as the top basketball player in the 1986 National Baskeball Association entry draft.

On draft day, the Boston Celtics picked Bias as the number two pick. He was instantly thrown into the spotlight and like every other young player, he felt invincible.

Bias, being a first-round draft pick and at the innocent age of 20, decided to celebrate his new found fame.

On the night he was drafted, Bias partied with a couple of buddies and for the first time in his young life used cocaine. To his buddies, it seemed like it wasn't that much, but to Bias it was more than he could handle. The cocaine eventually stopped Bias' heart and ended his life.

Tennis player Jennifer Capriatti had a different story than Bias, yet it was so similar. Capriatti burst onto the professional tennis tour at the young age of 14. Although she had limited success, she was supposed to be the next Chris Everett.

Cappriatti couldn't handle the pressure of being "the next one" and turned to drugs and alcohol for a way out. At 16, she was out of the tennis world and into a rehabilitation centre for her addiction.

The sports world tends to put too much hype on the young superstar and sometimes places too much pressure on the athlete.

These are high school and college youngsters who are not ready for what the "real world" has to offer them.

The next generation of personalities will be led by young superstars such as 20-year-old Tiger Woods, 20-year-old Kevin Garnett and 18-year-old Koby Bryant.

I only hope for the sake of sports fans that these athletes don't fall into the traps other athletes have experienced in the past and we can enjoy watching their talents for years to come.

Men's volleyball team clinches a playoff spot

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

The Niagara College men's volleyball team have clinched a playoff spot with two straight victories last week.

On Feb. 5, Niagara travelled to Ancaster, Ont. to face Redeemer College and won three games to zero (15-8, 15-5, 15-8).

Leading the way for Niagara was team captain Pat Deschambeault with 13 points, rookie Kerby Bentley had 10 points and Paul Clark and Shawn Reimer each added seven points.

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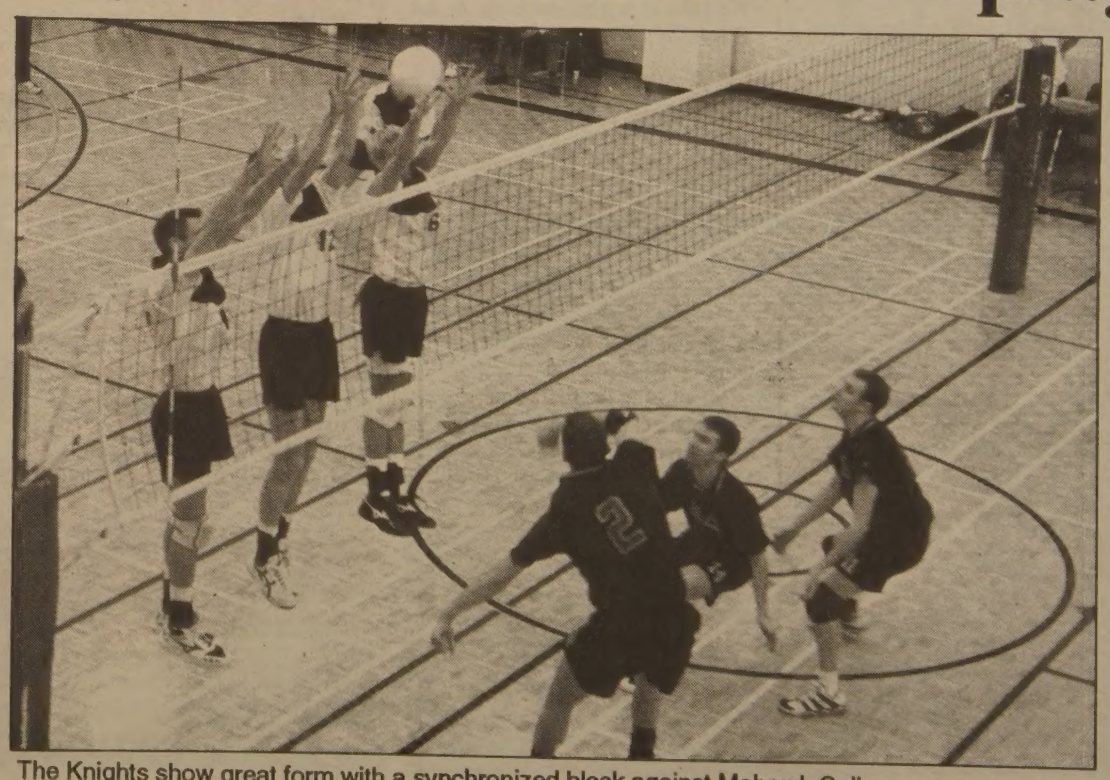
"We didn't play well," said head coach Blair Cudmore. "We played reasonably well enough to beat them. We played down to their level. That's just the characteristic of this team."



The Knights show great form with a synchronized block against Mohawk College.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

Leading scorers for Niagara were all-star Deschambeault who scored 22 points, Shawn Reimer, who added 20, and Paul Clark, who chipped in with 15 points.

Cudmore said Niagara must be mentally prepared to play.

"As long as the guys are ready to play, we should have some success," said Cudmore. "If we peak at the right time, our setbacks won't matter."

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ENTERTAINMENT

'It's a little bit of everything, but country'

By MIKE HASTINGS
Staff Writer

The Winnipeg-based band Not Goin' To Vegas rocked After Hours on Feb. 4.

This foursome includes Phil Deschambault, 22, on vocals and guitar; Roland Deschambault, 25, on bass; their cousin Ron Deschambault, 23, on drums; and long-time friend Rich Keller on percussions. All are from Winnipeg.

"We all grew up in the same town and went to the same high school together," said Keller.

Not Goin' To Vegas has been together for three years and has just finished touring with The Watchmen.

The band played for about 150 people at the pub, playing songs from their 1 1/2-year-old CD, **Not Goin' To Vegas**.

"It's heavy-folky percussion," said Keller about the sound of the band. "I guess it's a little bit of everything."

Their self-titled CD has 13 songs. Those that have a fast tempo and a similar sound to Spirit of the West are *Sex Over Coffee*, *Clowns*, *Wallpaper* and *Pied Piper*. Their slower songs — *The Play*, *Conversation*, *Porcelain Skin* and *Grey* — place them in the same company as The Grapes of Wrath.

Not Goin' To Vegas is influenced by "anything aside from country." Groups like U2, Peter Gabriel, Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen are among the band's favorites.

During one song, the band worked in Dylan's *All Along the Watchtower*.

One of the highlights of the show at the pub occurred when Phil joined Keller on the congo drums and took the roof down.

Asked where the name of the band came from, Phil said, "Well, we are very unlucky when it comes to gambling, so we just named it Not Goin' To Vegas."

The audience cheered enthusiastically after each of the songs from this energetic band.

Not Goin' To Vegas has played in Canada and the United States with other fellow Canadian bands such as The Watchmen, Skydiggers and The Headstones.

"We're doing a show at the Horseshoe (tavern) in Toronto next," said Phil.

He said before each show the band asks the sound technicians if it can have 20 to 30 minutes to warm up.

This is also the time the band works out new material, he added.

"I will write a song and bring it to the other guys and we will work with it," said Phil.

The night before Not Goin' To Vegas played the pub, the four members went to see the movie **Metro** and when they came out, they found someone had broken into their van and stolen one of Phil's guitars. "I was pissed off."

Not Goin' To Vegas will be touring for another two weeks before it goes in the studio to record a second CD. It will be shooting a music video for one of the new songs.

About 150 Niagara College students got rocked by Not Goin' To Vegas, when they came and played at After Hours on Feb. 4.
Photo by Robert Hallett

'I couldn't hit a baseball'

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

Chris Quigly, of Oakville, opened Comedy Night at After Hours at the college's Welland campus on Feb. 5. About 120 people attended the show.

The 23-year-old comedian has been doing comedy professionally for two years but said, "I've been doing stand-up comedy at talent shows since I was 12.

"I couldn't hit a baseball, and I was told I was funny. Once I heard that, I started comedy."

Quigly said he'll "continue to do comedy" because "as long as I can make a living at what I love then I'm satisfied."

It was the comedian's second time performing at After Hours.

"I loved performing here. I couldn't wait to come back."

Quigly said the only problems with the job are the "travelling" and "sometimes the crowds aren't really with it.

"I love my job. I get to travel and meet interesting people like Weird Al (Yankovic). I opened for him at the Concert Hall in Toronto."

Kelly Dixon, of New York, was the second performer of the night.

Dixon has been doing comedy for eight years.

"My girlfriend's friend said I should come to his club and try stand-up so I did."

Wednesday was Dixon's first time at Niagara College but he said he's "performed many times at Niagara Falls.

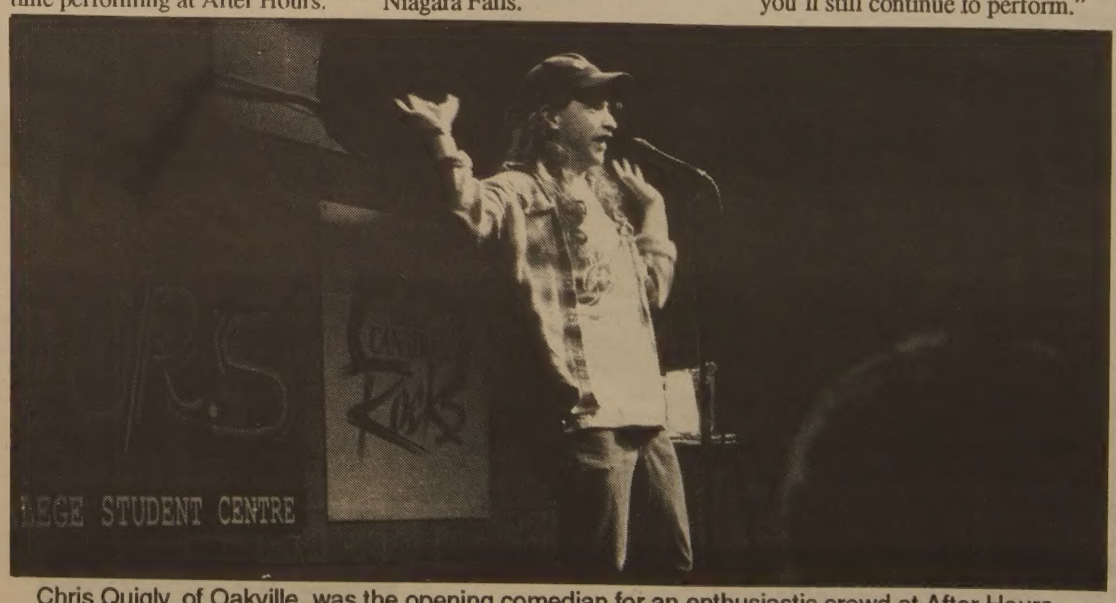
"Comedy isn't what I always wanted to do. I was an electrician before this, but watching people like George Carlin inspired me."

Dixon is originally from Vancouver and said he went to New York to "take comedy to another level. Everything I want for comedy is in America.

"When I was living in Vancouver I was just beating my head against the wall with my comedy business, so I left."

Dixon said he "loves" his job. He said now that he lives in the States "it's like starting over again.

"There's tons of roadblocks in a comic's career but I'll never want to quit. If comedy's your passion, then when you're discouraged you'll still continue to perform."



Chris Quigly, of Oakville, was the opening comedian for an enthusiastic crowd at After Hours.
Photo by Jeff Garrett

Let me on stage

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

A talented young performer appeared at After Hours on Feb. 6.

Dayna Manning, 18, of Stratford, Ont., is a musician who says she enjoys performers like Tom Petty and Sarah McLachlan.

She will be releasing her debut album on April 15. The type of music to expect to hear on this album is "everything from Joni Mitchell to Nine Inch Nails."

She says the album will probably be self-titled. She is managed by Ray Cobourn of Toronto.

She says she likes being a musician and performing. "I'm the luckiest person in the world. I'm busy and I like it. It's good."

Being nervous is not a problem for Manning. She said she loves getting up on stage and playing. It is only after her performance she gets nervous. "I don't get scared. Just let me get on the stage," she said.

Manning's father is a music teacher in Stratford, Ont. Manning has been involved with music since she was five years old. For four years she has been singing and playing guitar. She said."It's in my blood."

Dayna Manning,18, played at After Hours on Feb. 6.
Photo by Robert Hallett

Ultimate hip-hop with OutKasts

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

In OutKast's second CD **ATLiens** the ultimate hip-hop journey has a depth, emotion and intricacy explained by life in the city.

The first single, *Elevators*, hit number one on the Billboard Rap chart and has reached gold status.

ATLiens is a mix of alternative and hip-hop with a blend of funk. Andre Lauren Benjamin (Dre) and Antwan Andre Patton (Big Boi) are the two rappers.

Dre grew up in a single-parent home moving from place to place in southern Atlanta, Ga. Big Boi's lifestyle was similar, moving from Savannah, Ga. to Atlanta.

The two met at Atlanta's Tri-City high school. They formed OutKast and signed a record contract with LaFace Records.

Their debut album **Southernplayalisticadillacmuzik** was produced by the Grammy-nominated hit production team Organized Noize Productions (ONP). ONP is responsible for TLC's platinum hit *Waterfalls* and Goodie Mob's debut soul album **Soul Food**. ATLiens is produced by Laface Records.

Mainstream brings in the group's ONP family members and labelmates Goodie Mob. Smooth background vocals compliment the drums and guitar licks on *Jazzybelle*.

The CD jacket is also a comic book.

A sign of maturity

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

It's no fun growing up.

Those Australian kids, who call themselves silverchair, are back. The band is playing more music that sounds like a used cherry bomb and they're calling it **Freak Show.**

The group's second album merely reheats the same old guitar fury that Nirvana invented years ago. Once revolutionary, it is now redundant.

Throughout the album, the band members never sound like they know or care about the deep themes about which they sing. Songs like *Slave* and *Abuse Me* have all the dramatic effect of Valerie's drug problem on Beverly Hills 90210.

Silverchair's second album does show some signs of maturity. **Freak Show** has more musical variety and distinctiveness than **frogstomp**, but the kids still play formula grunge.

String sections, bongos and violins add some flavor to their music, but lead singer Daniel Johns can't sing anyway.

If you want a quick listen of the CD, skip to *Freak, Roses,* and *Lie To Me.* These three numbers are the disc's highlights.

If it wasn't for Nirvana and that whole grunge thing, these teenage lads would be playing their pent-up urban aggression in their basements at home. But what I can't understand is how grim the band is at such a young age. They need to learn how to have some fun.

Rating: ***** (out of 10)

A sad story of a loss of innocence

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Brock University Film Society
Cria Cuervos
Directed by Carlos Saura, Spain, 1975
Screened Friday, Feb. 7, at the Brock University Podium Theatre (subtitled)

Sometimes a child is born with a funny light flickering in her wide, apparently innocent eyes.

Cria Cuervos is arguably a film about innocence lost. Yet, how the story's central character, Ana, has become so jaded at such a young age is the question begging to be answered.

The films focuses on one summer in the life of three young sisters. Their parents have recently died, and now their somewhat exacting aunt has moved in to fill the parental role.

The story flip-flops from past to present, from reverie to reality, but the film is generally a contemporary narrative, as told by young Ana. She is a sweet, yet profound girl with deep brown eyes and closely cropped hair. Her sisters are equally darling, yet they lack her judging gaze and reflective depth.

The creepy correlation between Ana the narrator (she says her childhood was no "garden of innocence"), the keen and aware Ana of the present, and the longing, love-starved mother is an example of delightfully confounding filmmaking at its best. Ana the narrator is played by the same actress that portrays Ana's mother.

The mother's frustrating situation of emotional neglect is relayed through a series of cleverly integrated flashbacks in each scene, providing a sense of subtly smooth surrealism.

BUFS
BROCK UNIVERSITY FILM SOCIETY

After years of being coldly neglected by her husband, Ana's mother is beset with an unknown internal illness. Considering the degree of emotional anguish she suffered before her death, one might speculate that she died of a broken heart.

The deception and confusion experienced by the contemporary characters are underscored by a sense of mournfulness provided by the films most subtly powerful characters: Ana's invalid grandmother.

Basically untouched by the turbulent workings of her family, she serves as a constant reminder of the inescapable frustrations and pain of old age. She's almost a story within a story.

She sits in her wheelchair, day after day, smiling sadly at a board filled with snapshots and postcards from the past. Grasping for fading memories has become her final, consuming occupation.

Ana's intense little head is a pleasure to be a part of. Though her life is disordered, she never seems to lose her acute perception. At the height of hurt, she remains a rock.

Late one night, Ana cries out into the dark from her bed, "I want to die! I want to die!" But you are aware she's the keeper of her own crystalline will and not the mere victim of angst-filled circumstances.

Sunday, Feb. 16, BUFS shows *Lamerica,* (Italy, 1994) by Gianni Amelio, 1:30 p.m. at the St. Catharines Town Cinemas.

Joining forces help singles

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

EZ Rock 97.3 FM, of Toronto, *Ont., and Perdue Show* Management have joined forces to present a Single's Lifestyle Show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The event will be held on March 22 and 23 and will have nearly 200 exhibiting booths for single, divorced, widowed, separated or single parent people.

The event includes a Spring Gala that features a dance, buffet dinner and a Monte Carlo casino for $40 on March 22.

The exhibits will be open to the public on March 22, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and March 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Admission is $8 for a day pass or $12 for two day pass.

For more information contact Erin Oliver or Catherine Fraser of Wire Communications at (416) 222-9164.

Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film program students get a tour in CFTO-TV. For related story, see page 6.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

CRIME STOPPERS OF NIAGARA

Crime Stoppers needs your help

A recent Grimsby theft has Crime Stoppers and Niagara Regional Police investigators seeking information from the public.

Sometime between 1 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Jan. 4, thieves stripped a 1996 Pontiac Firebird that was parked in the driveway of a Lakeside Drive residence.

All four wheels, front and rear seats and an assortment of CDs were removed from the vehicle.

The value of the theft is about $7,000.

If you have any information regarding this theft or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash reward up to $1,000.

If all cases you will not have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc. writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax-deductible donations and cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc. P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, Ont., L2R 7A3.

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Paul

Happy Valentine's Day!

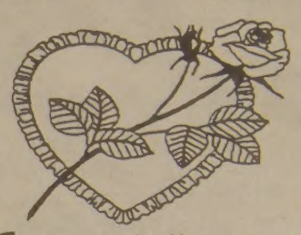
Love

Shelley

Ryan,

Happy Valentine's Day

I love you always



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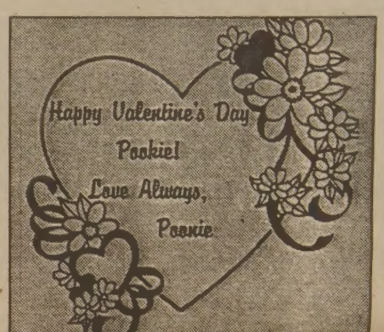

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Tory government confronts student debt load

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

Student concerns are being heard by the provincial government.

Niagara College's Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA/APPECO) has provided some "building ground."

Don Woodruff, Niagara's Student Administrative Council vice-president, is also a southwestern regional chairperson for OCCSPA/APPECO. He attended a recent association meeting in Markham, Ont. on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 to 2.

The main guest at the meeting was Minister of Education John Snobelen. He discussed educational issues with OCCSPA/APECCO, such as the Ontario Student Assistance Program, deregulation of college programs, faculty evaluations, a new Income Contingency Repayment Plan and other issues found in a recent Report of the Advisory Panel on Future Directions for Post-Secondary Education.

"We actually got to talk to John Snobelen on Saturday morning," said Woodruff. "We asked him questions on the brief, partly on our brief. I actually got to ask him a question personally, which was good."

"The question was 'We feel it is not in the government's best interest to have graduates leaving school with very large debt loads, taking 9 1/2 years to pay them back, plus not contributing to the economy during that time. Since the tuition announcement is due, we want to know if the government has determined what the acceptable debt load is for college graduates?'" said Woodruff.

Snobelen replied, "Well, what do you feel the acceptable debt load is?"

'OCCSPA is recognized by the government.' - Don Woodruff

Woodruff answered, "Well, we've done our research on what the acceptable debt load is according to most Canadian financial institutions and that answer was that most of those financial institutions have established a maximum debt load for individuals, not students, but as individuals of society at 30 per cent of one's gross. This 30 per cent is to include rent, mortgage, car payments, and student loans would be on top of that."

Snobelen replied to Woodruff with an analogy about a fictitious character named Camilla who owns a truck (meaning the Canadian taxpayer). He said, "Where is it right that a student should only pay 30 per cent of their schooling and the taxpayer pay 70 per cent?"

Woodruff said he felt Snobelen was ignoring some facts and the education minister's answer could be interpreted differently.

"The other aspect I had was students in the future; are they not taxpayers paying for students of the future later on? And if they have to take 9 1/2 years to pay back their student loan, how can they contribute to the society to pay for future generations to get educated?" said Woodruff.

He said in regards to OCCSPA/APPECO's impact on Snobelen at the meeting, "Right now, we have our foot in the door. If we were to trample on him at this meeting, he could have decided to shut that door or open it up even wider by saying 'You guys know what you're talking about. Maybe I should get some input.'"

Woodruff said it would be "a very fine line to cross" regarding confronting Snobelen with too many solutions to student educational problems.

"We (OCCSPA/APPECO) would rather just have a foot in the door and build a bridge from there," he said.

Woodruff said the meeting with Snobelen was very interesting. "He actually came there and entered with no bodyguards and exited with no hassle, because he's gone to other meetings of students, or people speaking on behalf of students' organizations, where he has had to exit with help or protection. So, it was very peaceful."

Woodruff says students are being provided a voice through OCCSPA/APPECO. He sees some building ground, whether it be with Snobelen or a future provincial government.

"I'm pretty sure OCCSPA/APPECO is now recognized by the government," said Woodruff. "They (OCCSPA/ APPECO) always have been recognized as a student voice across Ontario, but this is an 'extra brick on the building' and that will be building from generation to generation. He's (Snobelen) got a sense of who we are and where we are standing."

'Should students only pay 30 per cent of their schooling and the taxpayer pay 70 per cent?' - John Snobelen

Student Administrative Councils at all Ontario post-secondary schools have a choice of two organizations they can join at a provincial level. Government issues can go through OCCSPA/APPECO and be addressed to the provincial government or councils may join the Canadian Federation of Students of Ontario (CFS).

Individual colleges will decide tuition rates

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

For the first time, individual colleges will decide the level of tuition rate increases for the 1997-98 academic year following Provincial Minister of Education and Training John Snobelen's announcement last week.

Snobelen, in a press release, said he is giving Ontario's colleges and universities the flexibility to increase average tuition fees by up to 10 per cent in 1997-98 with a maximum tuition hike of 20 per cent for any one program.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said he has "mixed feelings" about the announcement.

First it removes some uncertainty about the 1997-98 budget, but "at issue is affordability."

Providing quality education costs money; those costs reduce affordability for students.

'At issue is affordability' - Dan Patterson

To help offset the expected higher costs, Patterson said the college is "stepping up" available bursaries to help students who "struggle with the affordability of education."

Snobelen's news release also said "30 per cent of any increases must be set aside for local student aid."

Patterson said, "If we get $100,000 from the increased tuition, we must set $30,000 aside for helping students. The challenge is to create a level playing field for everyone."

The president said he is meeting with Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administrative services, Bonnie Rose, vice-president, academic, Carol Boettcher, vice-president, community and learner services and Al Vaughn, Niagara College registrar, to decide the tuition increase level. The next step will be to get the Student Administrative Council (SAC) to review the budget.

It's difficult to talk of an increase in costs to students considering the economic environment, said Patterson. "In absolute terms, however, the cost of a year at college still represents half the cost of university." Tuition fees in Ontario are the lowest in Canada.

This year's tuition rates announcement represents a shift in provincial procedure. "Traditionally the ministry has dictated the tuitions," said Patterson. "Now the government is throwing the option to raise tuitions back to the college boards of governors."

Susan Clark, president of Brock University in St. Catharines, said the Ontario Council of University Affairs previously guided the government's policies. Since the council no longer exists, there are no experts to give the government technical advice on how to distribute funds.

The past consistency the government gave to tuition rates is in jeopardy. Still, Patterson said, the feeling he has gotten from other college presidents "is that most won't cause any inconsistency that will cause confusion within the system."

The administration will look at all programs and associated costs, said Patterson adding, Niagara College's 1997-98 tuition will "take into account increased costs but still retain the quality."

Alternative Winter Wonderland

Students spend March Break in Temagami wilderness

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

Most picture March Break as the time to relax in the sun, but some students will be exploring the winter wilderness.

Eighteen Niagara College students will travel through northern Ontario from March 8 to 15 for their "alternative" elective. They, facilitator Valerie Grabove, professor of English and communications, and Bert Murphy, consultant with the St. Johns Outdoor Studies Centre will leave Saturday, March 8 at 8 a.m.

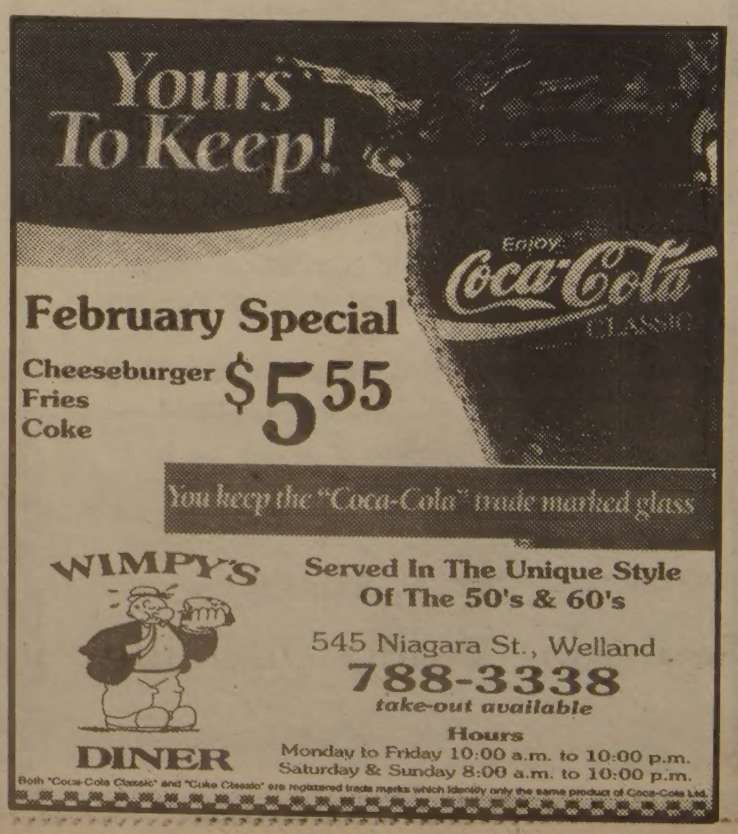
On their travels north, the group will stop at the Temagami Wilderness Centre for a guest presentation from the Ministry of Natural Resources and a short history lesson on the raising and breeding of Eskimo dogs. They will then head east of Cochrane to a trapper's camp where they will explore the life of a trapper.

The trip's objectives are to "explore the shrinking wilderness, experience some personal firsts, and build team and group dynamics," said Grabove.

The course will be a chance for students to interact with the environment and give them a better understanding of native affairs, animal rights, forestry, wildlife management, environmental concerns and the fur trade.

A pre-trip session on Feb. 6 helped the students get to know each other, go over the trip itinerary and have a lesson in first aid by Rick Chandler, coordinator of the Ambulance and Emergency Care program, and one of his students, Scott Martin. Another pre-trip session will be held on Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tecumseh lounge to teach them how to dress and pack for the cold weather, learn the basics of dogsledding, understand enviromental ethics and begin their group workshops.

After the trip there will be a follow-up session to debrief the class, allowing them to share their journals and meet for a last farewell.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Niagara president praises Toronto conference

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Niagara College President Dan Patterson attended the 30th Celebration of Ontario Community Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology in Toronto on Feb. 9 and 10.

The two-day conference centred on a review of the association of college presidents, several guest speakers and trends in college education.

Patterson said Niagara College was well represented at the workshop session called Celebrating Ontario Community Colleges.

It was chaired by Anthony Manera, a former president of the CBC. He was the second president of Niagara College and is a member of the Ottawa's Algonquin College board of governors.

Carol Alaimo, a reporter with the St. Catharines Standard, also spoke critiquing the college system. She used Niagara College as the basis for her speech. She is a graduate of Niagara College's Journalism-Print program and was last year's winner of the Premier's Award, an award given to outstanding graduates from the community college system.

"It was a really great session," said Patterson, adding another speaker who "provoked a lot of interesting discussion" was David Foot, professor of economics at the University of Toronto and author of **Boom, Bust and Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift**.

Foot spoke of "things we have to anticipate" in the economy and education community, Patterson said.

The college president said the "true highlight" of the conference was the evening banquet on Feb. 10.

The 1996 Premier's Award presentations were held during the dinner. Niagara College put forward two nominees for awards, and although they didn't win, the two joined in the celebration.

When the names of Stephen Coote, a 1988 Business Retail and Management program graduate, and Michael Horne, a 1989 Social Service Workers program graduate, were called, Patterson said, "We pounded on the tables and were pretty rowdy," adding everyone else was so sombre, it prompted Ontario Premier Mike Harris, who attended the dinner, to comment about the Niagara College fan club.

A story about the Premier's Award winners will be in next week's Niagara News.

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Brown, Katie Jane

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Perhaps you spoke the kindest words,
As any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all,
Just thought of us that day,
Whatever you did to console our hearts,
We thank you so much whatever the part.

Special thanks to Katie's friends and to Niagara College for all their loving support.

Our sincere thanks to Ed Nieuwesteeg and Patterson's Funeral Home, Rev. Don Glennie and the Women's Auxiliary of St. Andrews Church, Const. Wilson, OPP.

Norman, Betty, Bill, Dylan and Mya May Brown and Liz Flynn.

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Regular meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month starting at 5:30 p.m.

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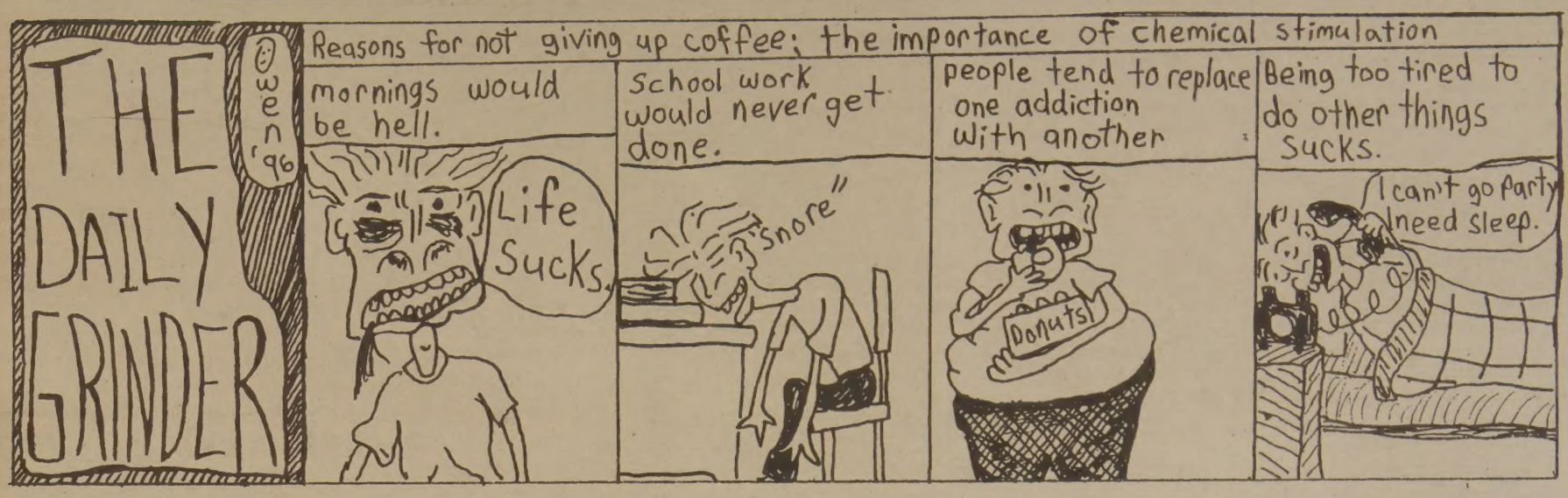
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I can't go party I need sleep.

Aquarius, don't be afraid to express feelings

By PENNI TONEGUZZO and KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writers

Here are your horoscopes for the weekend of Feb. 14 to 16.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

A new spark between friends can spice up your love life. Don't be afraid to express how you feel. Lucky numbers: 4, 76

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

A job promotion will increase your weekly salary. Be wise when spending the extra cash. Lucky numbers: 2, 16

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Be aware of new activities in your area. Take part and you may meet that special someone. Lucky numbers: 7, 89

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

If you find yourself getting bored call an old friend. You'll be shocked with what you hear. Lucky numbers: 23, 34

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Being quiet can frighten new acquaintances. Try to be more open and you may find a new spark in your life. Lucky numbers: 25, 79

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

You've been feeling a little under the weather because of all of the tasks you have taken on. Let it be a lesson to not take on more than you can handle. Lucky numbers: 46, 61

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Valentine's Day is for friends, too. Take this special day to let someone know you care. Lucky numbers: 4, 66

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Take the trip you've been considering. Look for coincidences. Lucky numbers: 14, 55

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Why not do something different for Valentine's Day? Variety is the spice of life, after all. Lucky numbers: 1, 46

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

No one else can get you out of this slump. You have loved ones who care, but only you hold the key. Lucky numbers: 45, 67

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Pamper yourself this Valentine's Day. Self-love is the most important kind of love around. Lucky numbers: 12, 34

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)

You're trying to take responsibilty for people who are old enough to take care of themselves. Do what's best for you. Lucky numbers: 8, 33

Words to compliment your true love

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

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Valentine's Day facts

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

For lovers and friends — here are some facts and suspicions to give context to St. Valentine's Day.

• Some historians trace St. Valentine's day to the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia where young men would strike people with strips of animal hide to ensure their protection from wolves. Women actually wanted to be hit because they believed it would give them greater fertility.

• There were at least two early Christian saints named Valentin. When Emperor Claudius II banned young men from marrying in the third century AD, because he believed single men were better soldiers, one priest named Valentin defied his order and performed secret marriages for young couples.

• Another Valentin was imprisoned in Rome for not worshipping the Roman pantheon of gods. While he was in jail his followers would throw loving messages to him through the bars of his cell.

• St. Valentine was supposed to have been martyred on Feb. 14, 269 AD. The Roman History of Martyrs, however, lists two St. Valentines being martyred on Feb. 14, one in Rome and one at Interama (which is now Terni) 60 miles from Rome. The probability is that it was the same man, Valentin the Bishop of Interama, who was executed in Rome but mourned in both places.

• St. Valentine's day was probably celebrated in England as early as the 1300s. The festival may be based on the English belief that birds choose their mates on Feb. 14. This is seen in early literature such as Geoffrey Chaucer's The Parliament of Fowls.

• The modern tradition of giving greeting cards with loving messages can be traced to Charles, Duke of Orleans, a Frenchman who sent his wife a rhymed love letter on St. Valentine's day from his cell in the Tower of London.

• To some, St. Valentine's day offers a young lady the chance to discover whom she will marry. Some would place the names of prospective husbands in small balls of clay and throw the lot in some water. The first name to resurface would be the lucky guy. Others would pin five bay leaves to their pillows — one in the centre and one in each corner so that they would have dreams about their future husbands. Still others would walk around their churches three or 12 times reciting special verses expecting Mister Right to appear when they finished.

• In modern times we've come to celebrate the day giving gifts of chocolate and funny or romantic cards to lovers, friends and family.

Creature unleashed

Moist's frontman David Usher (left) belts out an intense set with bassist Jeff Pearce at Front 54 to a fanatic crowd. The band is on tour to support their second album **Creature**, stopping in Thorold on Feb. 11.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

Team honors three-year veteran

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

An Academic All-Canadian athlete nominee from Niagara College will be honored in the Knights' men's basketball final home game Feb. 21.

Derek Flindall, of St. Catharines, Ont., will be recognized as a graduating senior before the game against Fanshawe College of London, Ont.

The three-year team veteran is a Law and Security Administration program graduate.

He is in his final term of the Correctional Worker program.

The Lakeport Secondary School graduate holds an 85 per cent academic average and has been nominated as an Academic All-Canadian for 1996-97.

He's started forward for all three seasons for Niagara and has led the Knights in rebounds each year.

A career 86 per cent free-throw shooter, Flindall has averaged 11 rebounds and 13 points throughout his career.

In 1995-96 he represented Niagara in the league's all-star game and in 1996-97 was named as Niagara's team captain.

Word on campus: What are you doing this Valentine's Day?

BRIAN COBB

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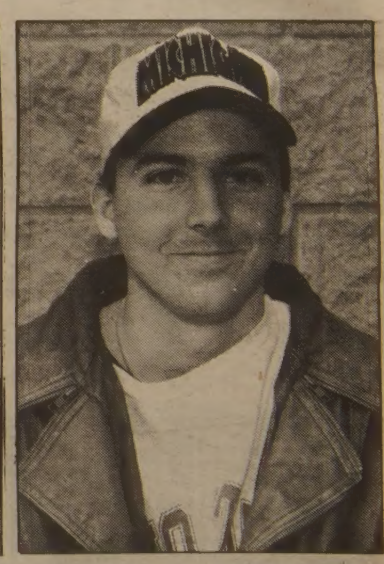

JONATHAN CARNEY

By GRETTA ROSSI
and JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writers

"Nothing, I have to work this Valentine's Day," said Brian Cobb, 21, a first-year Law and Security Administration program student.

"I'm having a surprise dinner for my girlfriend," said Jason Chase, 21, Student Administrative Council president. "Then I'll pour her a hot bubble bath and place rose petals on the bed."

"I have to work, but I'm baking a heart-shaped cake for my fiance," said Michelle Adey, 19, a first-year Journalism-Print program student.

"I'm looking for a valentine. Someone who's witty and energetic. I need someone who'll enjoy cuddling with me on a cold night," said Michael Budai, 21, a second-year Electrical Engineering program student.

"She's (fiancee) got to work so I'm cooking her a candlelight dinner and pampering her all night. Maybe I'll get her a card — and chocolates, she likes chocolates," said Jonathan Carney, 21, a second-year student in computer programming.